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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CHATHAM, GILLINGHAM, ROCHESTER, STROOD, RAINHAM & DISTRICT



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COPS STOP GANG WAR BLOODSHED

POLICE stopped a gang war on the streets of Medway – after more than 50 armed thugs converged on a Rochester road for a brawl, arranged on the internet.

Rival gang members arranged the hate-fuelled fight over the internet, using social networking sites to select a time and a place for the street battle.

In the latest horrific showdown, more than 25 White Road Crew thugs squared up to a similar number of their Strood Bois counterparts in the Esplanade last week.

EXCLUSIVE

BY SIMON ROBINSON

Some were carrying weapons – including a metal bicycle chain – when they were spotted by police.

The fight came after dozens of threatening and abusive messages were posted online between the rival clans.

One yob taunted another by writing: “You mug. I’m gonna beat the colour out of you. Wait till I get hold of you.”

The fight was narrowly avoided after police discovered the location of the brawl and stepped in between the

feuding factions – however, their “sophisticated” method of arranging fights mean open warfare could soon be waged by Medway’s many ‘crews’.

Two teenagers were arrested while officers took the names and addresses of would-be brawlers as part of ongoing investigations into the pre-arranged fight.

Inspector Mat Newton said: “Our actions demonstrate that we have an exceptional knowledge of what is going on in the local community.

“I would like to warn those who consider becoming involved in such disturbances that we will not be a soft touch and they will face arrest.”

• Read the full story on page 3.



RESCUE FOR LAMB MAROONED IN MOAT

A wandering lamb plunged 40ft into a ditch on Saturday, sparking a rescue mission involving the emergency services.

Firefighters and RSPCA officers got to work pitching extension ladders down the side of the dry moat near Hill Road in Borstal.

Two members of Faversham’s animal rescue unit were then able to scoop the lamb up into a special harness and climb back to the top of the moat.

Strood station manager Phil Rice said: “The lamb was about 40ft down a steep drop. Although the lamb was a little distressed, amazingly it was not hurt.”

After being given a quick check the animal was returned to its owner.



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MPs support our fight to clampdown on the cheats

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

OUR campaign to catch the benefit fraudsters stealing taxpayers' money from council coffers has received the backing of MPs Paul Clark and Jonathan Shaw.

As part of the 'Your Money - Your Loss' crackdown we have urged readers to help root out the cheats who claim money they are not entitled to which could be used for the community.

Our campaign partners in Medway council's counterfeit claims team have promised to investigate any tip-offs with a view to prosecuting the greed-fuelled fraudsters.

Medway's Labour MPs endorsed the drive to clampdown on the towns' con-artists, who drained more than £400,000 of taxpayers' money from the council's budget last year alone.

Gillingham MP Paul Clark said: "I wholeheartedly support Yourmedway's benefits campaign. Any one of us could fall on hard times and that's why benefits are there.

"But these people are defrauding the system, depriving those with legitimate claims from receiving money they need. The con-artists should be brought to book for their actions."

Chatham and Aylesford MP Jonathan Shaw MP also gave his backing to our scheme, saying: "I support any campaign about benefit fraud. Such campaigns are not simply about encouraging people to 'shop' benefit fraudsters, the campaigns are designed to positively reinforce honest behaviour.



BACKING: Paul Clark (left) and Jonathan Shaw



"I feel that we must create a climate of intolerance to benefit fraud and to undermine its social acceptability."

The MPs' backing comes a fortnight after fraud minister James Plaskitt voiced his support of the campaign.

Mr Plaskitt MP said: "I have been very impressed by the stories you have been running in your campaign.

"I am in favour of Yourmedway getting involved in this. I think it helps get the message across to the small minority of people who think they can get away with fraud. It gives the message to the rest of the community that it will not be tolerated."

The minister said the government's fraud and error department had helped bring a record number of fraudsters to book - but urged our readers to help catch the cheats still out there.

• If you know of a benefit cheat you can call Medway council's investigations team on 01634 332305 or leave a message on the fraud hotline on 0800 083 7049.

yourmedway

NEWS IN BRIEF

Last week of weapons amnesty approaches

FIVE guns, six knives and two caches of ammo were handed in at Medway police station during the third week of a weapons surrender scheme.

The haul included two handguns, two imitation firearms and an air rifle.

Three weeks into the month-long amnesty, Medway police have been given 14 guns, more than 100 knives and 300 ammunition cartridges.

The surrender scheme is part of the Kent Police Safer Spring initiative and runs until Sunday, April 20.

Litterbug clampdown to make region clean

NEW bins have been placed near train stations and in high street areas as part of a council plan to clampdown on litterbugs.

Commuters can now place their newspapers in the paper recycling bins at the end of their journey, while the cigarette bins give smokers somewhere to dispose of their cigarettes.

Community safety lead Cllr Rehman Chishti said: "We want everyone that lives and works in Medway to feel proud of their environment."

Identity crisis hitting the Medway towns

ONE in three Medway residents believes the towns lack identity, according to a new survey.

Of the 632 people questioned by Local Opinion, 31 per cent - equating to 197 pollsters - said Medway had no fixed characteristics that distinguished the area from other places in the UK.

Encouragingly for tourism chiefs, of the 68 per cent who did think Medway had an identity, 59 per cent thought it was "traditional and historical".

Save money with help of the energy doctors

HOMEOWNERS are being offered free tips on slashing their annual energy bills by 'energy doctors'.

The heat-saving experts are trained to advise people on how to reduce their energy bills and make their homes more environmentally-friendly.

A spokesman said: "With the increases in prices, saving energy in the home is an important issue for householders."

For more information visit www.kentenergycentre.org.uk.

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Gangs used internet to set up street fight

Fifty teenage lads caught by police

EXCLUSIVE

BY SIMON ROBINSON

TWO rival gangs of teenage thugs used internet networking sites and mobile phones to organise an armed brawl in Rochester.

A mob of White Road Crew yobs arranged to fight the Strood Bois in the Esplanade, Rochester, after posting dozens of threatening and abusive messages on the net.

Thugs from crews across Medway and Kent taunt each other online, writing horrific messages on rival gang members' profile pages.

One of the yobs, who uses the web alias of 'Nuj WRC', boasts of being scared of "absolutely ***** nothing" and happiest when "drunk and out wiv the boys doing what we do".

He taunted rival 'Top Boi Jackster' by writing on his profile: "You mug. I'm gonna beat the colour out of you."

"You ***** little ***** head, Wait till I get hold of you."

Fourteen-year-old 'Top Boi Jackster', who



ONLINE GANGS: Cops reveal a worrying rise in teens who use web social networking sites to threaten violence

took an online quiz to find that knuckle dusters were the weapon that suits his personality, hit back by writing: "Do be serious."

"You ***** 2 foot ***** What the ***** u gonna do lil bitch."

The gangs' hate-fuelled fight was only avoided after police discovered the location of the pre-planned battlefield and stepped in.

Officers prevented more than 50 thugs – some of whom were armed with deadly weapons – from exchanging blows, made two arrests and seized a heavy-duty bike chain from one of the yobs.

The names and addresses of would-be brawlers were also taken as part of ongoing investigations into the fight.

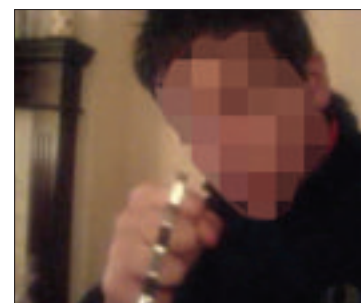
Inspector Mat Newton said: "Our actions

demonstrate that we have an exceptional knowledge of what is going on in the local community.

"I would like to warn those who consider becoming involved in such disturbances that we will not be a soft touch and they will face arrest."

"I understand that many teenagers want to be part of a group, feel popular and accepted, however they should consider the impact that having a criminal record would have on their future."

"Neighbourhood officers are more that just a visible presence patrolling the street, they are the eyes and ears of the community and use the intelligence they gather to the benefit of local people."



Southern Water fined for excess river pollution

SOUTHERN Water was fined £2,000 after pleading guilty to pumping high levels of sewage into the River Medway.

The multi-million pound firm's Motney Hill treatment centre breached environmental guidelines on four occasions in a 12 month period – sending thousands of litres of polluted water into the river from Rainham.

One toxic sample was nine times over the agreed level of 60 milligrammes per litre of suspended solids, while the cleanest batch was more than 50 per cent dirtier than it should have been.

The breaches were heard at Medway Magistrates Court on Thursday afternoon, in a case brought by the Environment Agency.

The industry watchdog's solicitor Peter Bilborough said: "Our view is that in this day and age all those handling polluting or potentially polluting material are expected to take care that there is no risk to the environment."

"Southern Water was already given a tolerance allowing for some discharges above consent and had notice from the agency that they were failing during the year."

Almost £300,000 of unpaid council tax is written off

MEDWAY council wrote off more than £278,000 in unpaid council tax last year, new figures show.

Bosses gave up chasing the staggering sum during the 2006/07 financial year at a time when councillors were rubber-stamping cut-backs across vital services.

The shocking statistic was revealed just days after council chiefs agreed to axe Medway's adult services – shaving just £200,000 from their annual budget – and months after mental health, leisure and creche facilities were dropped.

Ashford council left just £4,000 worth of council tax unclaimed, while Maidstone lost £148,000.

Across the country, more than £130m of unpaid tax was given up on during 2007, £17m of which went uncollected in the South East.

The Department for Communities and Local Government figures show the outstanding tax which councils stopped chasing that year, including amounts from previous years.

The TaxPayers' Alliance dubbed the £130 million loss as "shocking".

A spokesman for the pressure group said: "At a time when pensioners are being sent to jail for not being able to pay relatively small amounts, it is shocking that councils are happy to write off millions."

"Council tax is putting an unsustainable burden on ordinary families and allowing this hole in the budget to continue adds to that burden."

Medway council's finance chief Alan Jarrett defended the lost sum, saying: "This is the lowest write off of council tax for the last five years in Medway."

A spokesman for the Department for Communities and Local Government said: "It is the responsibility of local councils to collect council tax and they work hard to ensure collection rates are as high as possible. We will continue to work with local government to get even better results in the future."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Air ambulance called to scene of car accident

THREE people, including a little girl, escaped serious injury when their car careered off a road at high speed and trapped them inside.

The crash took place on the Maidstone-bound carriageway of the A229 at Blue Bell Hill last Wednesday at 2.45pm.

Firefighters stabilized the vehicle while police used high-powered cutting equipment to free the driver and two passengers. Kent Air Ambulance flew a female passenger to Medway Maritime Hospital, but her injuries were described as "not life-threatening".

Workshop bring patients and carers together

PATIENTS and carers helped shape health plans at a dementia care workshop.

Representatives from Medway Maritime Hospital, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust and voluntary organizations also took part, discussing the challenges and problems faced with a diagnosis of dementia.

Medway Primary Care Trust commissioning manager Wendy Alloway said: "Feedback on the day revealed attendees felt it helped them enormously in understanding the problem patients and their carers face."

Sign up to read and take home some free goodies

FREE goodies are being offered to anyone who signs up to a Medway library during national Join A Library Day on Saturday, April 26.

New members will receive a joining pack and seven-day leisure pass to Echoes gyms at Strood, Black Lion, Deangate and Hoo leisure centres, Splashes leisure centre in Rainham and the Stirling Centre in Rochester. They will also be offered a free copy of the Children's Ultimate Book Guide. See www.medway.gov.uk/libraries.

Salon's charity fundraiser is a cut above the rest

A HAIRDRESSER will hold a fundraiser in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Xpressions salon in Rainham Shopping Centre will donate all profits made next Wednesday to the cancer charity.

Salon owner Beverly Appleford said Macmillan was close to the firm's hearts.

She said: "The campaign to build the new Macmillan Cancer Care Unit at Medway Maritime Hospital has inspired us to take action as a local business. This is our way of giving something back."

Laying foundations of cancer care unit

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE first bricks have been laid on the site of the new multi-million pound Macmillan Cancer Care Unit.

Contractors upped tools for the first time yesterday, laying the foundations at the dedicated Medway Maritime Hospital cancer building.

To celebrate the occasion, cancer care charity volunteers, hospital bosses and the mayors of Medway and Swale took part in a special 'turning the first sod' ceremony.

The building work marks the mid-point of the £4 million project, a year after Macmillan Cancer Support launched their fundraising campaign to help pay for the unit.

The purpose-built facility is due to open its doors next spring, offering life-saving treatment to the 1,500 Medway and Swale residents who contract cancer each year.

Among the key services, the state-of-the-art building will house a chemotherapy unit, haematology ward for 19 cancer inpatients, space for relatives to stay overnight and a quiet area for counselling.

Macmillan's senior development manager Sue Barrow said: "The new unit will mean cancer patients can receive chemotherapy treatment, other care and support in their local hospital – rather than having to make expensive and tiring journeys when they may already be feeling sick and anxious."

"We will be creating a bright, purpose built, comfortable and welcoming environment where people living with cancer and their fam-



START: The first steps towards building the cancer care unit at Medway Maritime Hospital have been taken

ilies can get the treatment, support and information they need."

Macmillan has been charged with raising £1 million of the unit's construction fees, which will then be met by three times as much by Medway NHS Foundation Trust.

The trust's chief executive Andrew Horne paid tribute to those who have already supported the mammoth fundraising campaign.

He said: "The appeal has received good support from local businesses and fundraising teams."

"Although too numerous to mention one by

one, the League of Friends, Gillingham Football Club and individual fundraisers from our staff and community are working tirelessly behind the scenes to raise the £1 million needed, that will boost the £3 million provided by the trust.

"I would like to say a personal 'thank you' to everyone who has supported this important appeal and I hope you will continue to give this your valuable commitment."

To help Macmillan raise the six figure sum e-mail kent@macmillan.org.uk or ring 01622 600 050.



DANCE: Morris Men will descend on Medway

Festival sweeps through town

THE spring-inspired Sweeps Festival returns to Rochester next month – drawing hundreds of colourful Morris dancers, folk singers and country bands to the town.

The annual event, now in its 28th year, attracts thousands of visitors to Medway and will be held from Saturday to Monday May 3-5.

More than 60 Morris troupes from across the UK will perform, while a traditional children's fun fair, real ale tent and concert marquee will be pitched at Rochester Castle Gardens.

Music and entertainment will be provided at various venues across Rochester, ensuring the festivities carry on long into the night.

Singer-songwriter Denny Laine will perform at the castle concert marquee on Friday night, with support from Ruby, while the Battlefield Band and The Dealers will follow suit the following night. On Sunday a group of Medway musicians will perform a tribute to The Byrds' country classic The Sweetheart of the Rodeo, followed by acoustic duo Show of Hands, who have sold out the Albert Hall and played at Glastonbury.

The fun-packed festival dates back to the 1600s, when chimney sweeps had their traditional holiday, leaving the soot behind to have some fun.

For tickets and more details visit www.medway.gov.uk/sweepsfestival.

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THE ENTERTAINMENT: French DJ Laurent Garnier will be headlining the Aftershow Party, he will be joined by Kent's own Nic Fanciulli and Sam Ball

Superstar DJs to rock the studio in Aftershow Party

MAIDSTONE Studios will host a massive dance party with a line-up of world famous DJs as part of Radio 1's Big Weekend.

DJ Pete Tong made the announcement on his Radio 1 show on Friday night, revealing the venue and line-up to his international audience.

The Official Aftershow, organised by Maidstone's own ClubClass, is expected to attract more than 2,000 clubbers to the studios in Vinters Park on Saturday, May 10.

The county town is hosting Radio 1's Big Weekend, which will see about 40,000 people flocking to Mote Park for the free music festival on May 10 and 11.

Early bird tickets for The Official Aftershow have been on sale for a few weeks, but sales for the eight-hour event have rocketed since the full details were revealed.

Tong, who was born and raised in Kent, told Yourmaidstone he was pleased to see his home county hosting such a high profile event.

The headliner is French DJ Laurent Garnier, described as "a legend" and "the king of the warehouse party", who will be making his first visit to Kent.

Pete Tong is also on the bill alongside Radio 1's Annie Mac and acid house pioneer Danny Rampling, who has been persuaded out of retirement to make an appearance.

Simian Mobile Disco, and local stars Nic Fanciulli and Sam Ball, complete the line-up

■ BY JANE CONNOLLY

for the party, which will be broadcast live on Radio 1.

Jeff Gray, head of events at ClubClass, revealed how delighted he was to be involved: "We promised everyone that we had something very special up our sleeves."

"We're now working round the clock to make sure the aftershow to Radio 1's Big Weekend is the best dance event ever to come to Kent."

"The venue is simply incredible and perfect for an event of this magnitude. We hope everyone can join us in what will be an incredible celebration for music in Maidstone."

Having previously hosted game shows like Dale's Supermarket Sweep and 100 to 1, Studio 5 has never been used for a music event before. It is the largest single television studio in the country, boasting full air-conditioning.

ClubClass claims the full soundproofing will prevent any noise pollution escaping, allowing the installation of a 'mammoth' sound system.

With no on-site parking available, clubbers are being directed to Tesco's Grove Green store.

The Official Aftershow will run from 10pm to 6am and tickets cost £29.50. To book call the 24-hour hotline on 0871 230 9848 or book online at www.ticketmaster.co.uk.

It's all gone a bit Pete Tong

THE Big Weekend will be a real homecoming for Kent-born superstar DJ Pete Tong.

Tong, pictured, will be in the line-up at The Official Aftershow on Saturday, May 10, where he will demonstrate the skills that have made him one of the world's biggest names in dance music.

He welcomed the decision to bring the Big Weekend and its inaugural aftershow party to the county town.

"There's been some great stuff coming out of Maidstone in terms of electronic music," he said. "We've never had an aftershow party before and this is a natural choice. It's totally appropriate, with its history of electronic music, to hold it in Maidstone."

While studying at King's School in Rochester, he became interested in drum-

EXCLUSIVE

ming and was part of a heavy metal band until a school concert introduced him to a DJ for the first time. Tong, now 47, became heavily involved in the Kent music scene and landed his first radio job with Invicta.

"I grew up with the soul scene, rare groove and the early days of rap," he said.

"I suppose I was partly responsible for making it happen, but there was a circuit within the South East and we had strong groups of people going to each others' clubs."

He is looking forward to sharing the bill with headliner Laurent Garnier, who has played at Tong's club in Ibiza several times.

"He's a complete maverick and he doesn't follow any edict," he said.

"We all hunt around for great new records, but he's just as likely to play something from 20 years ago. Anyone who hasn't seen him definitely should."

Pete Tong broadcasts on Radio 1 from 7-9pm every Friday.

Find out who's playing

THE full line-up of bands playing at the Big Weekend will be revealed throughout the day on Radio 1 shows on Monday.

Chris Moyles will announce some of the acts to join Scouting for Girls, followed by Jo Whiley, Edith Bowman, Scott Mills and Zane Lowe. How to register for tickets will then also be revealed.

The full line-up and how to get tickets will also appear on www.yourmedway.co.uk and in next week's paper.

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Scouting For Girls were here when the location was named

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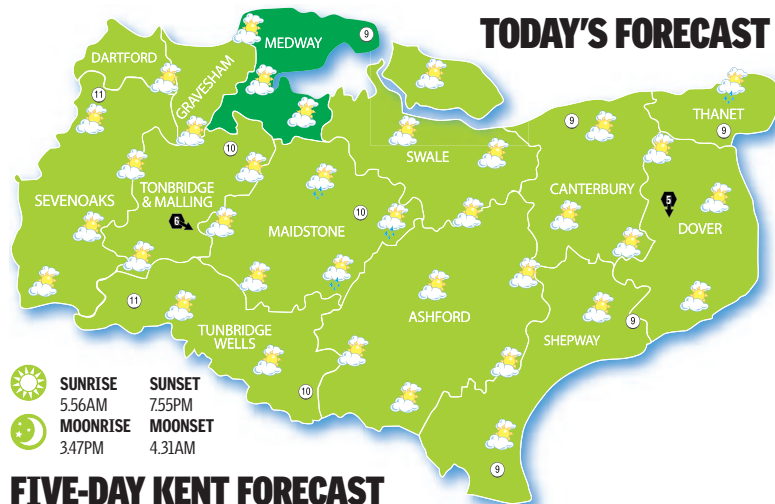
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NEWS IN BRIEF



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	11:53am	5.7m
	Sunday	12:39pm	5.8m
Dover	Saturday	10:24am	5.9m
	Sunday	11:01am	6.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:09am	6.5m
	Sunday	10:51am	6.9m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10:54am	4.5m
	Sunday	11:31am	4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:42am	5.5m
	Sunday	12:28pm	5.6m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:00pm	5.1m
	Sunday	12:45pm	5.2m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	11°C	Madrid	15°C
Athens	22°C	New York	12°C
Barcelona	15°C	Paris	8°C
Beijing	25°C	Rome	16°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	10°C	Tokyo	13°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	12°C
Hong Kong	26°C	Warsaw	18°C
Las Palmas	22°C	Wellington	17°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	12°C	12°C	11°C	13°C	17°C	Gravesend	12°C	11°C	11°C	13°C	14°C
Canterbury	10°C	10°C	11°C	13°C	14°C	Maidstone	12°C	11°C	11°C	13°C	14°C
Chatham	10°C	9°C	10°C	13°C	13°C	Ramsgate	10°C	10°C	11°C	13°C	14°C
Dartford	12°C	11°C	11°C	13°C	14°C	Rochester	10°C	9°C	10°C	13°C	13°C
Dover	9°C	9°C	10°C	11°C	11°C	Sevenoaks	10°C	10°C	10°C	12°C	13°C
Faversham	10°C	9°C	10°C	13°C	13°C	Sittingbourne	10°C	9°C	10°C	13°C	13°C
Folkestone	9°C	9°C	10°C	11°C	11°C	Tonbridge	12°C	11°C	11°C	12°C	14°C
Gillingham	10°C	9°C	10°C	13°C	13°C	Tun Wells	12°C	11°C	11°C	12°C	14°C

Hefty fine for litter dropping rubbish firm

A RECYCLING firm was fined £600 after its lorries twice shed a trail of rubbish along one of Medway's busiest roads.

Essex-based Waste-A-Way Recycling Ltd was found guilty of spilling rubbish – including paper and plastic – onto the A289 Wainscott Bypass on November 8 and 16 last year.

The company, which did not attend court or enter a plea, was fined at Medway Magistrates Court, and also ordered to pay costs of £150 and a £15 victim surcharge.

Community safety chief, Cllr Rehman Chishti said: "Let this be a warning to any commercial vehicle operator – they are expected to comply with the law and secure their loads correctly."

"The council will not tolerate rubbish being strewn along the roads and verges and will take action against anyone found doing it."

The case was brought to Medway council's environmental enforcement team after eagle-eyed residents spotted the spillages and gave witness statements.

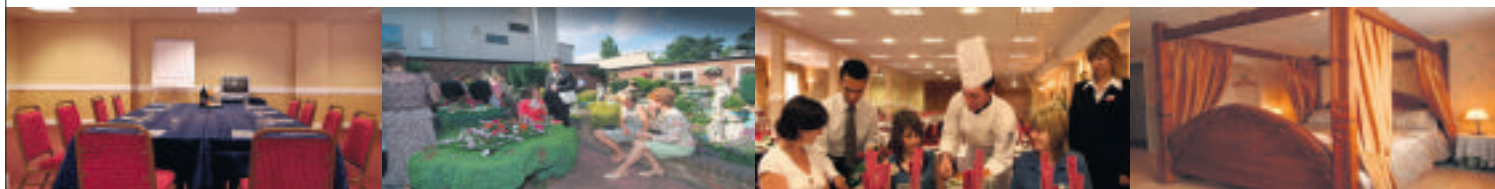
Waste-A-Way Recycling was prosecuted for failure to comply with the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The firm was charged with the same offence in August 2006 and fined £500 at Medway Magistrates Court.

Anyone spotting incidents should report them by calling 01634 333333 or emailing environmentalenforce@medway.gov.uk.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

HILARY NEWPORT



Q Can you tell us about your role in Kent?

A My job is to represent the Campaign to Protect Rural England at debates and in public, helping to make sure the proper respect is given to the environment and our landscapes when planning decisions are made.

CPRE is one of the oldest environmental campaign groups and as an independent charity all our work is financed entirely by membership subscriptions, donations and legacies.

We have an important role to play on behalf of all of the people who live in, and love, Kent and want to help protect its heritage for future generations.

Our work is carried out partly by the many volunteers who are based all around Kent and Medway, and who act as CPRE's eyes and ears at local level, and partly by the staff, including myself, based at the office just outside Ashford.

I joined CPRE Kent early in 2003 and since then I've never ceased to be amazed at the level of commitment and passion so many people have for their countryside.

Q What attracted you to the job and how did you get the position?

A It's my dream job! I've always known I wanted to work in a role that allowed me to protect our environment in some way and so far I've been privileged to be able to do that.

In my previous job I helped advise companies who wanted to limit their impact on the environment, reducing pollution and waste genera-

tion, reducing water and transport demands (and, perhaps most importantly, reducing their costs at the same time).

My job with CPRE allows me to work with a range of people and to help them make a difference for the better in their own environment. And there's always something new to learn.

Q Can you tell us about where you live?

A I grew up near the sea in North Wales, studied in Essex, and spent a long time working in Hertfordshire and then Oxfordshire. I moved to Herne Bay in 2002 and I love being in walking distance of the beach once again! Sometimes you don't know how much landscapes mean to you until you realise you miss them.

Q What are your thoughts on the proposed Kent International Gateway development in Bearsted?

A Horrendous, horrendous, horrendous. It's on a totally inappropriate scale, in totally the wrong place, and the noise, air and light pollution it would generate – let alone its impact on overall carbon emissions when so many people are now becoming so aware of the need to cut the use of fossil fuels – are just unacceptable.

It's right on the boundary of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding National Beauty – a nationally important asset which deserves the highest levels of protection.

CPRE Kent will do all it can to oppose this.

Q What are your hobbies and interests?

A I love the Great British Outdoors! I adore walking. My husband introduced me to the Lake District and the Scottish Highlands, but I needed no introduction to Wales's mountains and moors. We must have walked hundreds of miles around Kent's coastline and footpaths since we moved to the county, and yet there's always something new to explore.

There are still parts of the North Downs Way I have yet to cover and I've barely scratched the surface of the High Weald AONB yet.

I know that there are many other parts of the world with beautiful landscapes but I don't know anywhere that packs as much punch, with as much variety, as Britain does.

Q What work-related accomplishments are you most proud of?

A Getting over my appalling stage fright at having to do interviews for radio and TV on behalf of CPRE!

I still don't find it comfortable, but I don't suffer the terrors I used to. And, more seriously, I'm proud to be a part of the work we're doing to raise the profile of CPRE in Kent and spreading the word that quality of life is every bit as important as economic growth.

We need as many people as possible who agree with our aims to join up as members, so that we can really add weight to our arguments and carry on protecting Kent's glorious assets for its current and future residents.

Q & A

The 43-year-old Campaign to Protect Rural England representative took the time to speak to reporter **Lauren Mumford** about her job, living in Kent and the beauty of walking along our delightful coastline.



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Solo performer Keri Lovell takes a break from his original material to perform Paolo Nutini's top ten hit, Last Request.



The weather could not dampen the spirits at the Kent Game Fair, held at the County Showground.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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yourkenttv.co.uk

Rural policing now a priority says top cop

■ BY ED HILL

THE county's police chief has vowed to ease the fears of those living in rural areas amid claims they feel "isolated" by lack of adequate policing.

Kent's chief constable Michael Fuller pledged to ensure rural policing was a priority for the force at a special conference staged last week dedicated to the issue.

Joined by a panel of experts, the event at the Ashford International Hotel was designed to give local groups from across the county the chance to speak face-to-face with police officers and address their concerns.

Mr Fuller said: "We have made a big commitment to policing in rural communities. We want people in the country to feel they are getting the same level of policing as those in the urban areas.

Isolated

"I understand people [who live] in the country may feel isolated at times. One of our aims is to deal with that feeling of isolation.

"Every neighbourhood is going to have a named point of contact, whether that is a police officer or a PCSO or community warden. They can speak to them if they have a problem that is affecting their quality of life in the area."

But Mr Fuller said he recognised the force needs to improve the quality of service that it gives the public in general.

He said: "There are ways that we know we can improve. Communication with the public is very important. People who ring us with a problem need to be kept updated with how our investigations are going."

He also said the victims of crime need to be supported more by the police.

The conference was chaired by Ann Barnes of the Kent Police Authority who said the conference allowed those living in the country to engage with the force.



TASK FORCE: Ann Barnes of the Kent Police Authority (second left) and Kent's police chief Mike Fuller (second right) flanked by Kelly Greenwood and Nigel Freeman, discussed the issues facing rural policing across Kent

She said: "I have a vested interest myself because I come from a rural community, the Elham Valley.

"We have different policing issues compared to people in the towns. From the police authority's point of view it is important to ensure that the taxpayers of Kent are getting value for money."

However, Mrs Barnes said that often the police were blamed for problems that were not their responsibility.

She said: "Many of the issues are ones we have everywhere.

"Things like rubbish, graffiti and anti-social

behaviour. These are really community issues." She also admitted police resources were limited, saying: "We only have a certain amount of money and that does get spread quite thinly at times.

"We need to make sure the police's priorities are local people's priorities as well. We can't do things for all people all the time, we just do not have the resources.

"The message that's really coming out of this conference is that we all have to work together, the police, councils, the community – we have to combine to make life a little bit better in our local communities."

Company snaps up green award

A GREEN renewable energy firm has won the top prize of £20,000 after winning this year's Kent Innovation Challenge.

The competition is an annual hunt for the county's brightest entrepreneurs and most innovative businesses, and is supported by KOS Media – publishers of this newspaper.

This year's winner was Canterbury-based firm Oil Drum Limited – which won the gong through its use of a complex process which increases fuel efficiency in commercial vehicles while simultaneously reducing the level of gas emissions from the engines.

Formed in 2006 by Darryl Watts, it won £20,000 in cash, free rent for a one year at the Canterbury Enterprise Hub, free business and banking support from NatWest for 18 months, up to ten days free business mentoring from Business Link Kent, plus £5,000 of legal support and the production of a corporate video.

David Butler, director of Canterbury Enterprise Hub, said: "The team at Oil Drum Limited is a dynamic example of how entrepreneurs can use innovative ideas for the benefit of the environment – they well and truly deserve this award."

Plastic is major cause of coastal litter issues

THE amount of rubbish being dumped on the county's coastline is hitting record levels, according to a new report.

The Marine Conservation Society's 2007 Beachwatch survey revealed that nationwide plastic litter left discarded on beaches has increased by 126 per cent since the survey began in 1994.

And chief among the debris are plastic bags, plastic drinks bottles and plastic-based cigarette butts; all of which pose a threat to both the environment and sealife.

Emma Snowden, MCS litter projects co-ordinator, said: "The plastic litter problem needs to be tackled at all levels, from grass-roots through to Government, while industry and retail sectors must acknowledge the need to reduce plastic bag use and packaging."

The survey is based on data collected by almost 4,000 volunteers on 354 beaches up and down the country.



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Home and work is where war on superbugs begins

BY JENNA PUDELEK

WITH a growing number of people carrying MRSA on their skin and the threat of more virulent strains arriving from the US more focus needs to be put on hygiene in homes and workplaces, experts have warned.

The Government's 'deep cleaning' programme will not help tackle superbugs alone – to get MRSA under control the killer infection must be stopped in the community and people's homes, according to a professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

KOS Media's campaign to improve and raise awareness about hand hygiene in Kent homes and workplaces, as well as in hospitals and healthcare centres, is backed-up by the report.

The award-winning publishers have been working alongside the NHS in the county to help in the fight against superbugs after 90 patients in west Kent died from Clostridium difficile during one of the worst outbreaks of the infectious diarrhoea bug in the country.

Measures

Professor Sally Bloomfield said: "This is not about shifting blame. Hospitals are now diverting huge resources towards controlling these infections, which they would prefer to spend on delivering the level of healthcare which we now all expect.

"But it is important to stress that controlling MRSA is not about obsessive 'deep cleaning' of our homes. It is about applying simple hygiene measures."

She said the "key super highways" for the spread of MRSA are the hands, as well as surfaces that come into contact with our hands, cleaning cloths and other utensils.

Regular hand washing or using alcohol gel and disinfecting areas such as door handles, taps, telephones and computer keyboards is essential, she said.



Currently around two per cent of people carry MRSA on their skin and Ms Bloomfield said this figure was increasing.

In America a new strain of community-associated MRSA is proving a big challenge because it is harder to treat and as its name suggests, is affecting people outside of healthcare environments.

This strain is not yet common in the UK, but could be the next challenge to face the NHS after a more severe strain of C diff crossed the Atlantic in 2004.

Dr James Nash, a consultant microbiologist and director of infection control and prevention for East Kent NHS Hospitals Trust, agreed that more focus is needed to improve hygiene in the home – particularly getting people to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating.

But he said homes in the UK were not yet a significant source of MRSA, although that could change in the future if the American strains become more prevalent.

Ms Bloomfield suggests that family members should not share towels and face cloths.

Mr Nash said: "One has to strike a balance and I think it is impractical to expect that we can protect ourselves from exposure to bacteria carried by our partners."

Asked whether similar attention to home hygiene would help tackle C diff, an infection where exposure to antibiotics is the major risk factor, he said: "Yes, but nevertheless it is an infection that spreads when the environment



IN OUR HANDS: Dr James Nash says washing your hands kills bacteria that causes C diff... and saves lives becomes contaminated and when contacts of patients fail to protect themselves and others by hand washing."

Ms Bloomfield added: "If we can reduce the number of people carrying MRSA as part of their normal body flora, we can limit the number of 'carriers' entering hospital as patients [or visitors] – who then either get an MRSA infection themselves or pass it on to other patients."

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is part of the University of London and is internationally recognised as a centre of excellence in public health.

Who has the most funds for charity?

JUST days are left in the search for 'Britain's Most Inspiring Fundraiser'.

If you know someone in Kent who deserves recognition or you are involved in helping raise funds for a charity, then Friday is the deadline for entries.

Charity search engine Everyclick.com is calling on people across the county to recognise the exceptional fundraising efforts of locals and take this opportunity to share their stories.

The UK-wide competition is being held in memory of renowned fundraiser Jane Tomlinson and the winner will receive £20,000 for their chosen charity.

Jane raised more than £1.75 million for cancer charities through a series of gruelling physical challenges whilst battling breast cancer herself.

Nicole Dryburgh, from Whistable, has already been nominated for her fundraising efforts for Demelza House and Kings College Hospital.

A spokesman for the organisers said: "Nicole is blind and uses a wheelchair. These disabilities were due to a malignant tumour she had on her spine.

"She was 13 when the tumour started and had a major fit due to it and the severity of the cancer gave her only months to live. She chose to fight and has done so for five years."

Nicole added: "They are all charities that helped me. I want to give something back."

More rail users hop on board for Europe

EUROSTAR has reported a big increase in passengers since the opening of the new Ebbsfleet International Station.

But bosses have refused to reveal figures for the number of passengers using its Ebbsfleet and Ashford stations.

The Channel Tunnel rail operator has reported a 25 per cent increase in revenue in the first quarter of 2008, with passengers up 21 per cent.

The company took nearly £180 million in tickets between January and March this year, with 2.17m passengers using the service in that time.

This follows the opening of St Pancras International and Ebbsfleet International stations in November.

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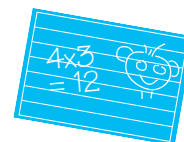
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BREAK TIME

Students see the beauty of raising cash for charity

BEAUTY students provided some personal pampering for a group of stroke victims last week.

The Mid-Kent College hair and holistic therapies trainees treated the Stroke Association members to a variety of soothing services – including haircuts, styling sessions and manicures.

The day was organized by lecturer Lesley Somm, who said: “My husband suffered a stroke two years ago, which is how I got to know the charity. They do excellent work and we wanted to show a bit of appreciation.”

“It’s a relaxing experience for the visitors, and it offers our students an opportunity to practice and improve both their technical and communication skills.”

CUT: Joan Godman is pampered by student Victoria Tyas

Stroke Association volunteer Joan Godman said: “The students have been fantastic. They’ve gone out of their way to please us and are clearly all very skilled. “I used to come over all the time for treatments as my daughter studied here in the holistic therapies department and it’s really nice to visit again. Having the sessions for local charities is a wonderful thing for the students to do.”

Student Louise Redding, 25, from Strood, said: “Doing these sessions is a brilliant idea and all the students are really happy to be involved.”

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourmedway@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your own video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

Inspectors say school has capacity to excel

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

MAUNDENE School has been dubbed an improving ‘good’ school by Ofsted inspectors.

The Walderslade primary school, which has 427 four to 11-year-olds on its books, was praised in the government assessment, which indicated ‘good capacity’ to progress into the ‘excellent’ category.

Much of the school’s success is attributable to the leadership and management skills of senior staff, who implemented measures to bolster areas of weakness.

The Ofsted report states: “In the past, more able pupils have not always done as well as they could.”

“School leaders have identified this and have been successful in encouraging teachers to set all pupils challenging work that is well matched to their needs.”

“Although pupils attain above average standards in English, mathematics and science, standards in mathematics have traditionally lagged a little behind those in the other subjects.”

“But again, the picture is an improving one, with measures taken this year to further boost pupils’ performance in mathematics already yielding evidence of faster progress.”

The inspectors’ report also poured praise on the good relationships throughout the school, which help motivate pupils to try hard and do their best.

Behaviour throughout the school is described as good and pupils were found to respond with enthusiasm to the school’s systems of rewards and penalties.

Pupils all have targets for literacy and numeracy and these, together with teachers’



GOOD CAPACITY: Maundene School’s success is attributed to the good leadership of senior staff

helpful marking of their work, were said to give pupils good guidance on how to do better.

Headteacher Norman Cutting said: “For the third time, Maundene has been judged to be a solidly good school in all aspects and we are delighted that the hard work of everyone connected with the school is recognised and appreciated.”

Children’s services lead councillor Les Wicks said: “A great strength of the school is that everyone works as a team, providing wonderful opportunities for children to learn and enjoy their education. I am extremely pleased

that the inspection team has acknowledged the school’s strengths.”

Children’s services director Rose Collinson said: “I’m delighted Ofsted highlighted the strength of the headteacher and his team at Maundene.”

“It’s their teamwork that ensures how much children enjoy their learning and relish the feedback they receive on how to do even better.”

“The inspectors also celebrated the rich and extensive extracurricular opportunities available at the school.

“My congratulations to children and staff.”



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yourmedwayblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Medway...

Be grateful for what you have and stop moaning

WHEN it comes to being fit, well and wealthy, Britain has never had it so good.

But alongside three decades of improvements in the quality of life comes another fact – we still love to have a good moan.

I was watching the news on the TV the other night and they ran a piece about a survey which has shown how grumpy a nation we are.

I looked up the survey on the internet and it said one in six people are uneasy about everything, half of young people are worried about money and drink-related deaths have doubled since the early 1990s among young men.

The findings are from an Office for National Statistics survey called "social trends". It says the benefits of higher earnings, loads of consumer goods on offer and travel opportunities are not all they are cracked up to be. Instead they are offset by a number of more gloomy facts.

The collapse of marriage, drinking habits and rising fear of crime are three of the reasons the UK is not such a happy place as it once was. And money obviously does not buy

happiness – wealth calculated on a home by home basis has doubled since 1987.

Illnesses are more easily treated and life expectancy has increased drastically.

The amount spent on foreign holidays and travel has increased by eight times in real terms since the early 1970s.

The same increase has been recorded in spending on leisure activities including sport, cinema and theatre. So why are we all so gloomy – is it just the British psyche?

I think it is, our consumer-driven way of life means people are quick to find fault and moan about things being less than perfect.

And that happens in a society where the self is one's primary concern.

One thing people complain about is poor service in stores, restaurants, bars, cafes etc.

And it's easy to do – no one wants to spend cash to be greeted with surly expressions and indifferent attitudes.

But look at it from the other side of the counter. The yoo – or middle aged person for that matter – has just the same attitude as the

customer – they matter most.

So an interruption in the form of a request for service is a major annoyance – and they just want the person in front of them to go away. It's the same in reverse – again. The customer wants immaculate service and no back chat. The other person does not exist in either case except as an irritant.

It's a feeling that persists across British society in every walk of life. No one wants to really appreciate what is felt by anyone apart from themselves and their friends.

So that's one reason why we are all so gloomy – frustration with the fact that anyone else has breathing space. Then there is cash – however much we've got we want more.

Really it boils down to two things – other people are annoying and nothing is too good for me. So how about a little politeness and respect for others, and appreciation of what we have all got.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

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TEXT: MEDW then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include your name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Jon Coates**, on 01303 817048 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmedway.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmedway, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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THE award-winning British International Motor Show sponsored by Zurich Connect returns to ExCeL London this summer, once again bringing all the glamour, excitement and innovation of a world-class motor show to the capital.

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Answer the simple question here, and you could be one of 15 lucky readers to win a pair of tickets.

Send your entry on a postcard along

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Question: Where is the British International Motor Show taking place this year?

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yourletters



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TALK TIME

MATT BRAY

Matt Bray is a Remodernist artist. He talks to Yourmedway about what inspires him and how the area of Medway gives him a creative streak



Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your work?

I am a Remodernist artist interested in authenticity and personal vision. I do not feel bound to any particular style or medium, but I create the work I feel compelled to do so, regardless of commercial success.

How much does Medway affect your work?

I think Medway is one of the creative hotbeds in the country right now. Almost everyone I grew up with was a creative in some way, we were always making music, writing, painting, whatever... that's how Medway affects me. "Medway is the difference between my town and yours," says my mate Ollie.

How encouraging is Made in Medway? What do you hope it will achieve?

It's cool to see Medway getting some props. I'd like it to be the beginning of a wider interest in the Medway scene, as I think it has a lot to offer the entire planet. Remodernism is bringing the light.

What has been the highlight in your career so far?

Going round Billy Childish's studio and seeing him and his work up close and personal.

Can you tell us something about yourself that not many people know?

I believe in magic.

• You can see Matt's work on his website, which is www.mattbray.org

Made in Medway has been created to act as a virtual gallery space and permanent visual archive/resource centre to display art and design, fashion, photography, sculpture and mixed media from local artists. Log on to www.madeinmedway.com to have a look.

YOUR LETTERS

COUNCIL'S CUT PRICE LEARNING

Cut-price learning has been a topic of debate for some time. The council's decision to cut the price of adult education courses has been met with mixed reactions. Some feel it's a good move to encourage more people to take up learning, while others worry it might devalue the courses.

Funding cut is not the right course

I write about your front page story about the threat to adult education courses after the council decided to no longer fund it.

I think it would be a crying shame if adults are no longer encouraged to continue learning throughout their lives.

It's never too late to boost your skills and to seek to better yourself. I have taken a photography course at an adult education centre and found it a brilliant experience.

It has not led to a new profession but has given me a hobby which I truly cherish.

I spend hours at weekends photographing the stunning birds at Cliffe Marshes and would not have got as much pleasure out of this without the course.

Surely we pay enough tax for the council to make education, including adult learning, a priority.

Marcus Hills, from Rochester by email

Closing shops is not redevelopment

I have just seen that two more shops are closing in the



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmedway.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article.

To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmedway.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham and Strood, as well as our villages.

We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newspaper, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmedway before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yourmedway.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

Pentagon. This does not auger well for the extensive redevelopment due to take place

there when the new bus station is completed.

The reason for these closures

and all the other empty shop fronts here and at the Dockside reflect the lack of purchasing power of the local community, which is steadily declining in the face of rising costs in so many essential areas - many of them above the desired rate.

The answer is to encourage more industry into the area, but then there is a problem.

The annual risk of water shortage which occurs in a dry year and the massive increase in population the government is imposing.

There is a government office in West Malling which is set up to bring industry into the area, and anyone with any concern in this matter can see just how effective they have been to date.

About ten years ago I wrote to them concerning my worries about the water supply. They wrote to say this problem was being attended to.

Has anyone seen the obvious effects this action would have made? Obviously if Medway is to improve and the people become more affluent, then some local action must be taken.

I took what could be the first step in this matter when I gave the university a number of practical concepts for their consideration.

They were very well received and should be appraised for feasibility, changing concept into pilot project and then presenting the findings in such a way that they could be adopted for production locally.

This would provide more work in the area and be of benefit to all.

Of course the university is not geared to take up a lot of projects in this respect as there is a lack of a department dealing with research and development, but I can see no reason why our elected members of parliament, irrespective of party, should not join together to get government aid to provide funding.

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Each of them, on election, swore an oath they would attend to the needs of the community – this could well be the means of testing if their oaths were true.

In Medway there are a number of very well qualified, experienced, retired people who would volunteer to join in groups to carry out these feasibility studies and also to provide solutions in industry to problems dealing with production and marketing.

P Douglas, from Rainham
by letter



Spider attracts world-wide interest

My wife and I were shocked to see the story about the prehistoric spider perfectly preserved in amber on your website, because Terence Collingwood looks exactly like me.

I thought someone had pasted my photo there.

Another thing, one of my main hobbies is dinosaurs and out of place artifacts. Wish there was a close-up of the spider though.

Doug Gibson, from Regina in Canada,
comment left on website

Editor's reply (which has been sent to correspondent): Thank you for your comment Mr Gibson. It's good to see Yourmedway attracting worldwide attention. You can see a bigger image of the 40 million year old harvestman on our e-edition of the paper. Just go on to www.yourmedway.co.uk and click on the e-edition panel.

Running cancer out of men's lives

I write to urge runners of all abilities to help fund the fight against testicular and prostate cancer by taking part in the Edinburgh Marathon for the Everyman Male Cancer Campaign.

Everyman is a Silver Charity partner for the 2008 Edinburgh Marathon, staged on Sunday, May 25, and still has places available in both the full marathon and the Hairy Haggis Team Relay.

The Edinburgh Marathon is a fantastic opportunity to get fit and raise money for a deserving cause.

There are more than 37,000 cases of male cancer every year in the UK. Everyman needs your support to continue its vital research into testicular and prostate cancer.

By putting on your running shoes for Everyman you're not just crossing the finish line, you're helping to cross out male cancer.

The event is not just for hardened marathon runners: the Hairy Haggis Relay offers entrants the chance to team up with three friends to run the marathon in four individual stages.

The Edinburgh Marathon is not only a great way to fundraise but also provides you with the chance to get fit for a good cause.

Edinburgh is a fantastic city and the Hairy Haggis Relay means you don't have to take on the 26.2 miles by yourself. All money raised will help its scientists continue their groundbreaking research into prostate and testicular cancer at the Everyman Centre.

For a place on the team or for further information on the Edinburgh Marathon please contact Joanna Wallis at Everyman on 0800 731 9468 or email joanna.wallis@icr.ac.uk before Friday.

Lorraine Kelly, GMTV presenter
by email

Help yourself to beat the risks of disease

Despite the recent news coverage about the link between lifestyle and cancer, research shows there is still a lack of awareness about how we can make positive choices to reduce our cancer risk.

For example, only half of people are aware that being overweight increases cancer risk and less than a third know that eating processed meat is a cause of cancer.

I am writing to let your readers know that choosing a healthy lifestyle can make a real difference to their risk of developing cancer. In fact, scientists estimate that about a third of cancers could be prevented just through healthy eating, regular physical activity and being a healthy weight.

Find out more at www.wcrf-uk.org/publications or call 020 7343 4205 and ask for information by post.

Lisa Cooney, head of education for the World Cancer Research Fund
by email

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Perhaps Andrew Lloyd Webber's most spectacular and ambitious musical, Cats is a record-breaking, award-winning extravaganza that has remained a firm favourite with theatre-goers for more than 25 years.

With its stunning costumes, amazing set design and memorable songs like Memory, it should be an unmissable treat for all theatre fans.

Inspired by TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, the story follows one night in the life of the Jellicle Cats as they prepare for their annual ball. A celebration of all that they are, the night is also a very special opportunity. Their wise leader Old Deuteronomy will choose one cat to journey to the Heavyside layer to be reborn and they all want to audition for the role.

One by one the cats are introduced

CATS

Tuesday, May 6, to Saturday, May 24
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury



– from lazy old Gumble Cat, Jennyanydots, to the playful and attractive Rum Tum Tugger. Also trying to join the group is Grizabella The Glamour Cat, who left the group to explore the big wide world and now wants to return.

But as the frivolities begin, the arrival of villainous Macavity and his henchmen leads to disruption and an alarming kidnap.

Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats was a favourite book of Lloyd Webber's as a child and he began writing the musical in 1977, originally envisaging it as a concert anthology. But when TS Eliot's wife showed him unpublished poems that suggested a more defined storyline, he enlisted the help of Trevor Nunn and they set about creating the musical.

As he was used to writing the music first, to which lyrics were then

set, Lloyd Webber was keen to see if he could work the other way round and write music for existing lyrics. Judging by the quality of the finished songs, it seems to have been a resounding success.

Since its London opening in 1981, Cats has been translated into 10 languages but the original English title has rarely been changed. Some productions have experimented with different settings, relocating the action to an attic, rooftops and even giving it a futuristic twist.

Cats won the Laurence Olivier award for Musical of the Year in its first year and its numerous other accolades including seven Tony awards and the much-coveted Moliere Prize for Best Musical in France.

It is now one of the longest-running musicals in West End and Broadway history and has enchanted audiences in more than 300 cities around the world. Book your tickets now and secure your chance to experience this legendary show.

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HARRY AND HIS BUCKET FULL OF DINOSAURS

Sunday, April 20
Central Theatre, Chatham

JOURNEY into an exciting world of prehistoric creatures with Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs.

Five-year-old hero Harry transports the audience into the amazing Dino World in

this fun theatre show, based on the bestselling children's book and successful television show. To Harry, his toy dinosaurs are just as real as the bucket he carries them around in and now fans can see the characters in action live on stage.

With his friends Taury, Trike, Sid, Pterence, Patsy and Steggy, Harry jumps into the bucket and finds himself in a thrilling new world where lots of adventures await. Children aged three to eight are invited to join the gang on the adventure of a lifetime.

The show starts at 2.30pm and tickets cost £8 for adults, £7 for children and £28 for a family of four. To book call 01634 338338, email box office@medway.gov.uk or see www.medway.gov.uk.



SECRETS

Wednesday to Saturday, April 23-26
Orchard Theatre, Dartford

THE work of popular children's author Jacqueline Wilson comes to life in the new stage play Secrets.

India and Treasure are two young girls from very different walks of life, who come together by chance and instantly become firm friends. They discover the Diary of Anne Frank and, inspired by the little wartime heroine, start writing their own diaries and

sharing their thoughts. But while India is suffering from a lack of attention from her parents, Treasure is getting too much from her stepfather and his belt. When Treasure decides to run away from home, she takes refuge at India's house and then things start to get complicated.

A moving tale of friendship, Secrets is suitable for children aged nine and above.

Tickets are priced from £9.50 to £14 for adults and £9/£8.50 for children. Call the box office on 01322 220000 or book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



THE PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA

Sunday, April 20
The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford

THE Pasadena Roof Orchestra has been delighting audiences all over the world with its blend of swing and hot dance music for more than 30 years.

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never gone out of fashion and the Pasadena Roof Orchestra offers a chance to experience some of the best live swing music around. Its roots lie in the pre-war dance bands and the music of the roaring 20s, which inspired the irresistible sound of later swing bands.

With a reputation for great performances, the orchestra not only introduces young audiences to the genre but

also young musicians. Since 1974 the orchestra has released 40 vinyl LPs, singles, CDs and DVDs containing more than 300 titles and its first five vinyl albums have recently been released on CD format in Japan.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £20, concessions available. Call the box office on 01322 291100 or book online at www.themickjaggercentre.com.

MEDWAY LEISURE

Don't pass up on big discount on days out

DISCOVER local entertainment and save money with the new Medway Attractions Pass.

Priced £30 for adults and £15 for children, the pass entitles the holder to entry at six attractions for a reduced cost. They are Royal Engineers Museum at Brompton, Rochester Castle, Dickens World and The Historic Dockyard in Chatham, Kingswear Castle paddle steamer and Upnor Castle.

Passes are valid for one season until October and can be bought at the Medway Visitor Information Centre or by calling 01634 843666.

Help raise cash for a good cause at concert

ENJOY some great live jazz and raise money for a good cause on Wednesday April 23.

The Donn Barcott Band will provide the music at the charity concert in aid of Wisdom Hospice and St Margaret's Church Tower Fund. Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £5. There will be a raffle and refreshments available.

For more details call 01634 846149.

Musical stage show will be chock full of calamity

CALAMITY Jane is at the Brook Theatre, Chatham, until Saturday.

Three Towns Theatre Company presents the story of a gun-toting young woman whose tough exterior masks her dreams of a husband. But when her friend falls for Calamity's object of desire, she faces difficult decisions.

Tickets cost £9, concessions available. Call 01634 338338 or see www.medway.gov.uk/theatres.

Send in a DVD and you could join in live tour

ASPIRING performers could appear alongside comedian Paddy McGuinness.

The Max and Paddy star is looking for support acts for selected venues on his Plus You Live! tour this autumn. All acts, be it singers, comedians, magicians or dancers, are invited to send a DVD of their performance and a brief synopsis to No Third Entertainments, PO Box 1121, Preston PR4 5UY by May 17.

There will be no live auditions. See www.patrickmcguinness.co.uk.

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Picture: REX

provided clients are assessed by the doctor as suitable and follow the instructions they are given.

The most difficult thing to do when you start a diet to reduce weight is to summon up the will power to stick to a sensible eating programme that will enable you to shed the pounds. A medically approved, tested and safe appetite suppressant is the answer in conjunction with a suitable diet for your particular needs.

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Getting in shape is vitally important with obesity becoming an epidemic. Being overweight is known to lead to many serious medical conditions, such as heart problems and cancer.

But the fastest growing condition as a result of obesity is type two diabetes. Child obesity is also becoming an increasing concern, storing up problems for later in life.

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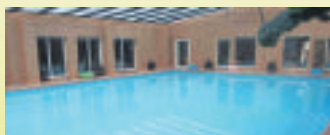
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FOUND between Maidstone and Medway, The Village opened in June 2004 as a brand new build venture.

Its health and leisure facilities provide a unique lifestyle opportunity – including a fully-equipped leisure club to change your body and your mind.

In addition to this you can refuel at the Verve Grill, the glistening new restaurant with a fresh and imaginative menu serving exception food and fine wines, alternatively drop into the Victory pub and kitchen.

Customers come from local areas, mainly Maidstone and surrounding villages, and Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham.

The centre has six personal trainers supplying personal sessions, which include full weight management consultation, fitness testing and objective lifestyle advice. The personal trainers are fully-qualified and experienced, half of the personal trainers are also qualified in sports therapy. Therefore they provide additional professional support to meet every need.

Kim Brockhurst said: "My team thrive on



achieving individual goals. I have fully qualified swimming instructors providing lessons for the young and studio instructors providing classes for the more mature person. Everyone in my team is important and they all provide different skills.

"Village health and fitness clubs are the perfect place to kick start health changes – and with a fitness at your own pace principle, Village health and fitness is on hand to guide you through each step to becoming the healthiest you can be this year."

Discreet quality

■ Julie Gamble

THE company aims to deliver quality, discrete services to all clients, male and female. It is constantly embracing new technology and products to expand the list of expertise and meet demand.

By using leading products and an on-going development program, staff pride themselves in offering real answers to any skin concerns and the client's well being.

This varies from hot stone massage to Indian head massage and a whole range of special pamper packages, which includes full body exfoliation and massage.

Staff can also help and advise with make-up from application to special techniques. To achieve perfect flawless coverage, they have chosen to use the Jane Iredale 100 per cent mineral range.

They also offer scar and tattoo camouflage, medical restoration and paramedical procedures, as well as hair removal, acrylic nails, sunless tanning, ear piercing and reflexology: Julie Gamble can help with it all.

Facials are a particular area of expertise. A complete diagnostic consultation is a pre requisite to any facial treatment. This is fol-



lowed with a full prescriptive facial to treat congestion, sensitivity, premature ageing, pigmentation, acne, loss of elasticity, oiliness, dryness or dullness.

Staff offer a range of treatments for skin to combat almost any concern, these include CACI treatments – a safe and painless way to tighten and tone the muscles in the face, giving a fresher, smoother and more youthful appearance.

They also offer the latest range of facial enhancing fillers and line relaxers, including Botox, administered by experienced aesthetic practitioners.

TOP TIPS

Kings Private Clinic

When visiting Kings Private Clinic, follow the treatments and guidelines as recommended by the doctor and you soon see the results. Then a healthy balanced diet and fitness helps maintain the weight loss.

Becky's beauty room

Get a healthy glow all year round with a Sudo spray tan, the leaders in the field of airbrush products to enhance your natural beauty.

BTF Hair Designs

Ensure you have a hair cut every six weeks, it is advisable to book with your stylist when leaving the salon to ensure they are available and to prevent you from forgetting.

Oasis Health Club

Drink plenty of water (up to two litres per day). Remove make-up every day and cleanse, tone and moisturise. Always wear sun protection of at least factor 15.

Swallow Health Club

Research shows the most successful weight losers never skip breakfast. Try to keep it balanced with some protein, a healthy carb, and a small amount of fat. Write down three or four realistic goals that you can stick to. For example: "I will try to lose one pound of body fat every week." Make daily notes.

Think TrimNSlim

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Herbal centre could be the cure you need

THE Chatham Chinese Herbal Centre, which has operated for almost six years at the Pentagon Centre, has revealed some of its success stories.

It offers professional advice and products for a range of ailments and has seen its popularity increase thanks to the number of recommendations from satisfied customers.

Many of them have benefited after years of using conventional medical treatment which failed to help.

For more details call 01634 815588.

Two-for-one on a wide range of stationery

CUSTOMERS at WH Smith can benefit from huge savings thanks to a number of great offers on school equipment, books and photo albums.

The stores at the Pentagon Centre in Chatham, Gillingham High Street and at Hempstead Valley, are offering two-for-one deals on educational books such as revision manuals and spelling guides.

Customers can also store their favourite snaps in the photo albums on offer in the shop's three-for-two deal.

Visit www.whsmith.co.uk.

Find out what's Next in cool summer fashions

SHOPPERS can now spring into summer with Next's new collection.

The store at Strood Retail Park in Commercial Road, Strood, has launched its summer range, which includes colourful dresses, trousers and fashionable tops.

Men can also benefit from new summer suits, T-shirts, shoes and jackets, or check out the latest designer range from brands such as Penguin, Levis and Firetrap.

For more information visit www.next.co.uk.

Take a healthy interest in discounts at store

SHOPPERS who need to stock up on some vitamins are advised to get down to Holland and Barrett's 'better than half price sale'.

The health stores in Chatham High Street and at Hempstead Valley has launched a sale offering customers hundreds of products at reduced prices until next Wednesday.

Items include protein and creatine capsules, skin, hair and nails formula tablets, calcium, magnesium and zinc tablets and cod liver oil capsules.

See www.hollandandbarrett.com.

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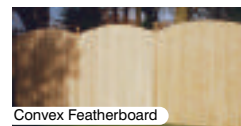
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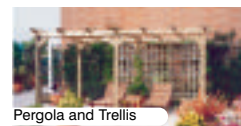


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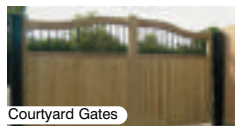


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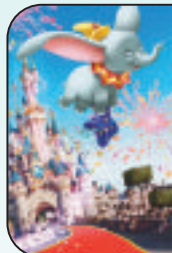


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yourmedwaymusic

Growing new musical talent down on the mushroom farm

BY MARIJKE COX

A MUSHROOM farm may not be the first place you think of as a potential dream factory for some of the freshest musical talent.

But lurking among a number of units on the site of the fungi firm in Bilting – between Ashford and Canterbury – is Diverse Music; a music studio offering the chance for musicians and performers to lay down the tracks they hope will catapult them to stardom.

The company, set up in 2003 by Malissa Whitehouse and Tony Mathew, has supported a long list of successful artists and boasts a recording studio facility. Its creators have worked with a number of top names – such as Kylie Minogue and Jamelia – and have been in the business for years.

Malissa said: "By setting up in Kent we're giving local people the chance to improve their skill, whether they're a musician or singer, and give them an outlet so they can come and record."

"Before we moved here Tony and I were working on a number of freelance projects and thought it would be great to have our own facility in Kent, especially with all the activity here. Since we've done that it's become a hub for musicians and we've attracted many good new bands and artists. Some of them are now going forward to talk to record companies."

As well as providing guidance and facilities for up and coming artists, the team at Diverse Music also has plans for open audition sessions later in the year.

Malissa said: "They will be carried out over a few days and we'll whittle it down to a select-



FOR THE RECORD: The Diverse Music team are Malissa Whitehouse and Tony Mathew. Friction, pictured right, are Johnny Wright, Neil Painter and Dave Stanton

ed few who can then feature on some of the big productions that we do."

A music boot camp is also being set up for the summer months, where local talent can develop their skills with the help of the production team.

Sessions

Along with plans for the future, the team have continued with a popular feature called Pop Sessions, which initially helped fund the company. Especially popular with hen and stag parties, the service allows people to gain access to a top London studio and record a song of their choice.

Among the many up and coming artists working with the Diverse Music team, is the already popular boy band Friction who have just been signed by management production company Famecity.

Made up of Birmingham lads Dave Stanton, 22, Neil Painter, 22, and Johnny Wright, 21, their music incorporates pop and R&B.



Friction have been spending time at the studio recording their single Kinda Strange, written by Malissa and produced by Tony.

Dave said: "We've been going for seven years and had interest from people who've sold millions of records."

"We've been offered deals that just haven't suited us or worked out so we're pleased we are where we are now, doing what we love."

Neil said: "The path we've chosen has led us to where we are and we appreciate what we have now because of what we've been through. We've had good times and bad, which is actually a good thing because we can draw from our experiences."

Johnny said: "We're trying a lot of different

sounds at the moment but our hearts are really into R&B and pop."

"People are crying out for a UK R&B act. If you look at the charts it's all been American artists so it's good to be doing this in the UK."

Malissa and Tony have been working closely with the band who they believe will go far.

As well as R&B and pop, the company invites all types of artist to come in and see them. Malissa said: "Most production companies specialise in just pop or rock but we're very diverse, hence Diverse Music, so anyone who thinks they have talent should contact us."

To contact Diverse Music email info@diversemusic.co.uk.

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YOUR TV REVIEW



GRAPHIC: A1 graphics make Headcases worth a watch, with the princes especially well rendered



TRAFFIC COPS

BBC1, 8pm, Wednesday
HEADCASES
ITV1, 10pm, Sunday

"PC ROBINSON is about to cut short the men's Happy Meal!"
Now if that's not a threat then I don't know what is.

Nevertheless, a crime's a crime and narrator Jamie Theakston – in his best long-arm-of-the-law voice – tried valiantly to inject some semblance of drama into Traffic Cops, the latest fly-on-the-wall show. Yep, the Boys in Blue are charging around in their Skoda Octavias, tracking down rapscallion, lawnmower thieves to the nearest McDonald's drive-thru. It's hardly Starsky and Hutch, but I guess you're only as good as your criminals.

Meanwhile, it was slapping hand on forehead time when I heard ITV were to resurrect the spirit of Spitting Image for a second time.

I've fond memories of the daddy of all lampoon shows from my youth and teen years but hated 2DTV, the previous stab at this kind of Sunday satire.

So I tuned in to Headcases with notepad in hand and a freshly-sharpened pencil looking like a member of the Traffic Cops ready to take down

BY TOM BETTS

the show's particulars.

The bad news is it doesn't match up to the puppets which, when on target, were peerless.

It also goes over a lot of old ground as too much time is devoted to Posh and Becks, who Alastair MacGowan and Ronni Ancona did to death years ago. Add that to the fact political correctness dictates just how close to the bone shows like this can actually cut and it could have been a disaster.

But, with all that in mind, this isn't half bad and worth a look as you lie in bed trying to stave off Monday morning for just that half hour longer.

Sketches involving Daniel Craig and Piers Morgan all scored points while the send-up of Dames Judi Dench and Helen Mirren had a lot of charm. But the real selling point here is the animation, which is A1.

Computer wizardry has come far in the space of a decade and some of the visuals are excellent. Particularly well rendered are Princes William and Harry and Jeremy Clarkson.

It's no classic, but from the channel that's given us Adrian Edmonson's embarrassing dad "comedy" Teenage Kicks, it's a step in the right direction.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOU'LL be on the move for most of the week, which is just how you like it. Give more thought to domestic pursuits before the weekend. Spending time with your nearest and dearest will prove deeply satisfying making this a good time to introduce new plans to the family.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

KEEPING a low profile will help you work toward some career goals. Put together a portfolio of your creative work. Don't hesitate to work as an intern or volunteer as a means to get your foot in the door of a great organisation. You could get a chance to show off your abilities.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

VENTURING into unknown territory will be good for you. This decision could open exciting new doors you never even knew existed. Don't assume a colleague will follow through on a promise to do an assignment. You're better off handling this job yourself.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU'LL be very busy at work, which is just the way you like it. It's possible you will be even more productive if you work from home. Ask your boss if you can swing such an arrangement. A close business or romantic relationship gives you the courage to make a big change.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

THIS is the final week in a profitable month-long cycle so be sure to take make the most of it. It may not be wise to give a friend a generous loan, as this person may have no intention of paying you back. A flirtatious conversation with a love interest makes your spirits soar.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

BEING a team player will yield better results than going solo. You could get a big boost from an expert who is willing to share their knowledge with you, so be sure to listen when dealing with this person. Spending more time at home will be a welcome change.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOUR powers of persuasion are red hot, so why not use them? Don't pretend to know more than you do about an obscure subject. If you're looking for a new job or role now is the time to rally your ideas and organise your supporters with tact, diplomacy and ruthless efficiency.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOUR creative juices will flow like a mighty river, attracting plenty of romantic attention. You've got your eye on an idealistic dreamer who has a gift with words. If you're already in a relationship, take this opportunity to pen a love letter to your partner.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

THE beginning of the week will be filled with social pursuits. Nothing lifts your spirits like mingling with a big crowd. You could be handed an important work project towards the end of the week. It's wise to negotiate for a raise or bonus.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

YOUR star will continue to rise at work this week. Your employer may fund a course that will add to your qualifications and expertise. Getting this career boost for free is an opportunity you can't afford to miss. If you are given a choice between a flat salary or commission, pick the latter.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

YOU'VE always been very attentive to your nearest and dearest and this week is no exception. Wining and dining the object of your affection will result in a blissful evening together. Follow a hunch about an investment. It could provide you with long term financial security.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

MAKING improvements to your lifestyle is long overdue, but be prepared to spend a little more cash than you think. Don't expect too much of an impulsive relative. They may promise more than they can deliver. If you're looking for love, you could find it at a dinner party.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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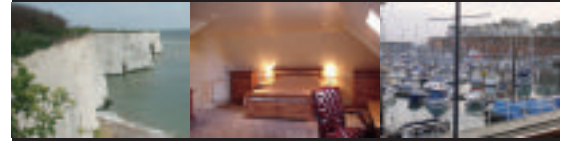
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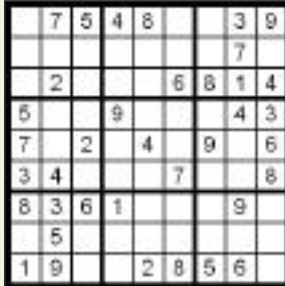
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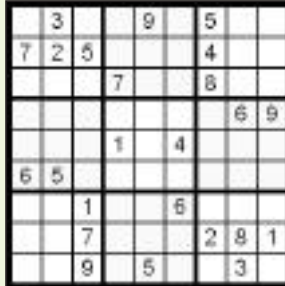
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

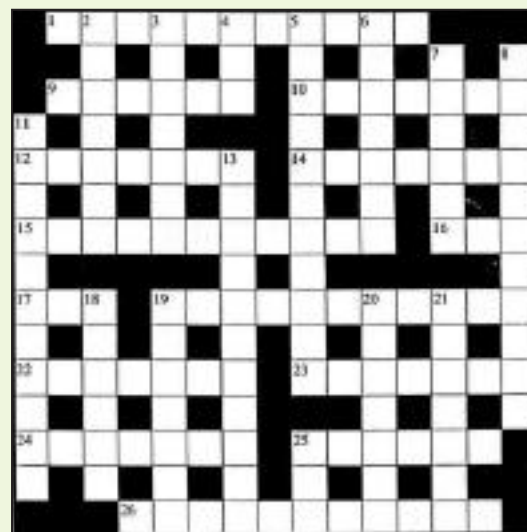
ACROSS

- 1 Boxer lacking in solemnity? (11)
- 9 Incarnation of Virginia taken in by a sailor (6)
- 10 I replace nothing in astronomer's last name (7)
- 12 Lady found protection on the pond (4,3)
- 14 Found in some drinks cool Hal mixed (7)
- 15 Past it in the next valley? (4,3,4)
- 16 Small unfinished container (3)
- 17 Presumed to include the lot (3)
- 19 Soldiers suspect sailor, the Parisian to be feared (11)
- 22 So I trot round for the dish (7)
- 23 Triangle existing always? (7)
- 24 Permanent living (7)
- 25 One or other of three I confused! (6)
- 26 Rose, if upset, becomes troublesome (11)

DOWN

- 2 Occupy fully as it's endlessly complicated (7)
- 3 Popular nightclub a place of high radioactivity (3,4)
- 4 Beware conflict therein (3)
- 5 Intrigued at remarkable ungratefulness (11)
- 6 He left one state going round and round (7)
- 7 Out-of-date item of headwear (3,3)
- 8 Old instrument at one time used by learners putting ring on another instrument (11)
- 11 Red River (11)
- 13 Nothing to fear from battleship (11)
- 18 Mother's contract for resin (6)
- 19 Part of the ship's rigging behind Pied Piper! (7)
- 20 Chirpy speaker? (7)
- 21 In addition dandy went round for a ribbon (7)
- 25 Being selfishly contained (3)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Document carrier (7-4)
- 9 For the time being (3,3)
- 10 Capital of Kenya (7)
- 12 Rather pale (7)
- 14 Intellectual (7)
- 15 Enlivened (11)
- 16 Whisky (3)
- 17 Equality (3)
- 19 Telephoneist's console (11)
- 22 Delay (4-3)
- 23 Capital of Iran (7)
- 24 Hunting cry (5-2)
- 25 Marine (anag.) (6)
- 26 Publicity (11)

DOWN

- 2 Stain (7)
- 3 Emmet's home (7)
- 4 Border of cloth (3)
- 5 NE US state (11)
- 6 Took a deep draught (7)
- 7 Attitudiniser (6)
- 8 Discerning the thoughts of another (4-7)
- 11 Yam (5-6)
- 13 Zigzag pattern (11)
- 18 Wrinkle (6)
- 19 Spread out (7)
- 20 West Indian islands (7)
- 21 Publicly accuse (7)
- 25 Rodent (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No31

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC SOLUTION No31

ACROSS: 1 Saddleback 6 Pass 9 Merit
10 Face 11 Ache 13 Reconsideration 14
Abutment 16 Ossify 18 Vestry 19 Acrostic
22 Cherchez la femme 24 Oath 25 Grab
26 Unman 27 Stew 28 Receptacle. **DOWN:**
1 Samaria 2 Doric 3 Latin America 4
Befriend 5 Cachet 7 Archivist 8 Sternly 12
Passion fruit 15 Unsheathe 17 Scalable 18
Vicious 20 Cleanse 21 Decree 23 Mimic.

QUICK SOLUTION No32

ACROSS: 1 Artistic case 9 Pro tem 10
Nairobi 12 Whiffish 14 Egghhead 15
Entomologist 16 Rye 17 Par 19 Switchboard
22 Time-lag 23 Tally-ho 25
Remain 26 Advertising. **DOWN:**
3 Anthill 4 Hem 5 Connecticut 6 Swigged
7 Poser 8 Mind-reading 11 Sweet-potato
13 Herringbone 18 Rumpie 19 Spayed 20
Bahamas 21 Arraign 25 Rat.

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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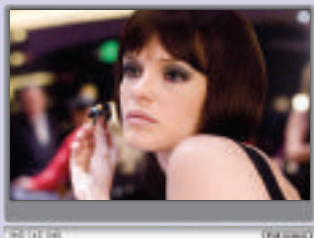
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SON OF RAMBO (12A)



Will Proudfoot is being raised in isolation among The Brethren, a puritanical religious sect in which TV and music are strictly forbidden. So when Will encounters his first movie, a pirate copy of Rambo: First Blood, his imagination is blown wide open. He teams up with school bully Lee Carter to make their own action epic.

21 (12A)



Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess) is a shy, brilliant student who, needing to pay school tuition, finds the answers in playing cards. He is recruited to join a group of the school's most gifted students, who head to Las Vegas every weekend armed with fake identities and the know-how to turn the odds at blackjack in their favour. Based on a true story.

LEATHERHEADS (PG)



A romantic comedy set against the backdrop of America's nascent pro-football league in 1925. Dodge Connolly, a charming, brash football hero, is determined to guide his team from bar brawls to packed stadiums. But after the players lose their sponsor and the league faces certain collapse, Dodge convinces a college football star to join his ragtag ranks.

Mick shines a light on nerves

■ BY SHEREEN LOW

HE has performed in front of stadium-sized crowds for decades, and met the Queen, so it seems unlikely that nerves would affect Sir Mick Jagger.

Yet the 64-year-old rock star admits that shooting the Martin Scorsese-directed concert documentary Shine A Light made him slightly anxious.

"Shooting this movie was quite nerve-wracking in some ways for us, and in other ways it was fantastically enjoyable," says the Rolling Stones frontman, who grew up in Dartford.

"It was quite a challenge. It was great fun, but it was a great challenge for everyone, both on the night and after it. It took us two days to shoot the picture, but we've spent four days doing the premieres and promotions. It's taken us twice as long doing that.

"You always see things as great fun, but they're also challenges, doing things that are slightly different from what you do normally."

Mick and band members Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts hardly needed to boost their career. The Rolling Stones have amassed 32 UK and US top 10 singles, sold more than 200 million albums worldwide, and are, arguably, the greatest rock and roll band in the world.

Featuring guest appearances by Christina Aguilera, Jack White and blues guitarist Buddy Guy, Shine A Light was shot at the intimate Beacon Theatre in New York during the band's A Bigger Bang tour – recorded as the highest grossing tour of all time – in 2006, though Mick reveals this wasn't his initial plan.

"At the beginning, I was thinking we would be doing some kind of film of this tour. And because we were doing this big concert in Rio de Janeiro on the beach, I started thinking it was going to be different than the normal con-

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cert," he explains.

"It was going to be a big event, a million people on the beach, a huge audience, a big occasion. There was going to be a lot of material in there to shoot. We even did a budget for that."

Eventually, the Oscar-winning Departed director, affectionately referred to as Marty, persuaded him otherwise.

"Marty said he really wanted to shoot something more intimate. So we'd come around completely – I'd gone from a million people, and he'd gone to something small," Mick continues, taking a sip of water.

The twice-married singer adds: "Marty didn't want to do it with big stages, because you're quite removed from a more intimate relationship between the audience and the performers. He felt that you don't really see much in the relationships in a big movie like that.

"Also, he wanted to be in a very confined space with a lot of cameras and a lot of differ-



JITTERS: Sir Mick Jagger was nervous about filming

ent angles, which gives more control than being in a very large space.

"We also talked about shooting in 3D, and shooting in Imax, because it was such a big event," Mick recalls. "I was focused on this because I thought it was different. Marty seemed very excited by this idea."

Eventually, the pair decided to shoot in Imax, to enhance the cinematic experience for fans.

"The funny thing is that Marty, after looking at all the options, decided he wanted to make this small, intimate movie and I said, 'Well, the laugh is that, in the end, it's going to be blown up to this huge Imax thing, so the intimate moment is shown in Imax. We got both so we're happy with that.'"



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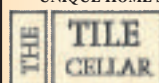
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Eco-friendly relaxation

BY GABRIELLE FAGAN

THERE are some things you definitely don't need on holiday; an email from the office asking you to return urgently, a tummy bug or bad weather, particularly if you have children.

But one peculiarly modern ailment is increasingly difficult to dodge – eco guilt. In particular the question “Am I wrecking the place for the locals who actually live here?”

Our preoccupation with the planet and all things green means if you're aware of conservation at home you can ruin your eco 'street cred' by leaving a huge carbon footprint in your holiday wake.

Thankfully, there's no need to restrict yourself and your family to a self-catering tent on a UK beach: a green wind of change is blowing through the world of luxury travel. It's now possible to find resorts which are a fusion of eco-sensitivity, where you can relax confident your impact on the environment is minimal.

Plenty awaits travellers to Thailand, now fully recovered from the tsunami and boasting new environmentally friendly destinations.

One new eco-resort is on a tiny, unspoilt west coast island called Yao Noi – in English this means 'little island'. At its heart, the new Six Senses Hideaway harmonises so well with its tropical surroundings that it is barely visible



GREEN: Forget about your carbon footprint at one of the new eco-resorts to be found in beautiful Thailand

from the private helicopter whisking you in over the Andaman Sea.

This beautiful development has been painstakingly put together. Only wooden nails were used in its construction, villas are made from sustainable local timbers, and all fabrics are either organic cotton or linens.

There are 56 spacious retreats – each with sun terrace and infinity pool – set in 24 acres of lush hillside, and the breathtaking views are a balm to the soul.

Tension melts away as you gaze, perhaps while lounging in the master suite or soaking

in a sunken bath, at Phang Nga Bay's sparkling waters, which lap at the white sands of private beaches.

The resort also sources pure water from underground wells and bans plastic bottles.

What could be more indulgent than your private butler? There's one per villa, serving champagne breakfast in bed as you watch the sunrise, or cocktails followed by a banquet on your candlelit deck in the evening.

With some reluctance, I sailed away from my island hideaway, but my next stop, the Rayavadee, fulfilled my 'green' expectations too. This resort also prides itself on harmony with the environment and has won awards for its sensitive eco-conscious development.

A short boat ride from Krabi, in Thailand's southern province, the first sight of Rayavadee at the end of the mountainous peninsula is spectacular. It is fringed by three National Park beaches, and the accommodation – double storey rondavels (circular colonial-style villas) – is artfully tucked away amid this former coconut plantation.

The resort is reminiscent of a Thai village, with meandering paths bordered by streams and swaying palms, and abundant flora and fauna nurtured by its own organically produced fertiliser. Recycled water keeps the surroundings lush during the dry season.

In Thailand I enjoyed privacy, peace and an escape from the world, but best of all, with a clear eco-conscience I could claim that the only footprint I left behind was on the white sand of the beaches.

FACT FILE

Time difference	UK +6 hours
Capital	Bangkok
Population	Approx 63 million
Currency	Baht (62.5 to £1 approx)
Religion	Buddhist
Climate	Tropical
Language	Thai

Holiday details

Gabrielle Fagan was a guest of long-haul specialist Hayes & Jarvis.

The company tailor-made her six-night journey, including three nights' B&B at Rayavadee, Krabi, and three nights' room-only at the new Six Senses Hideaway Yao Noi (formerly Evasion Hideaway & Spa) with flights from Thai Airways International from Heathrow.

This package starts at £1,669 in June, including domestic flights and boat transfers.

Hayes & Jarvis reservations are available on 0871 664 0246. Alternatively take a look at their website at www.hayesandjarvis.co.uk.



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TRY NEW THINGS
Mum of 1, 5'11, blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old. I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH, likes keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559

R U THE 1?
Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5'11, brown hair/eyes, Tonbridge, seeks caring, loyal male for friendship, leading to more. Box 433107

ROMANCE IS ALIVE
Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, enjoys time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 431930

WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

NOT AFRAID OF HARD WORK?
Lively female, 26, 5'12, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 426555

BOOYAKASHA!
Single mum of two, 29, bubbly, bright, 5'10, brown hair, green eyes, size 14 and curvy, seeking tall, muscular, outgoing guy for socialising and more. Box 438300

TAKE ME OUT
Fun, lively female, nearly 30, bored of being single, seeking someone to take me out and show me a good time, petite with dark hair. Box 895349

HEIGHT-H!
Calling all heights in shining armour, demand in distress, 30, needs rescuing, I can guarantee love, but can guarantee laughs. Box 894102

LADY MADONNA
Single Mum of 2, 31, great SOH, works full time, seeking male with GSOH, fun-loving and romantic, for possible relationship. Box 439417

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UNDER THE BOARDWALK

Black female, 32, 5'10, likes cooking, reading, going out, WLTW a nice man 34-50, down-to-earth and fun to be with, to find out more. Box 426855

EXPRESSLY YOURS

31yo Chinese girl, 5'4, slim, no children, seeking tall, white, loving, caring, fun, Eastern male for serious relationship. Box 438931

ALL IN GOOD TIME

Tall, black, pretty female, 31, new to the Chatham area, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male 34-47 for LTR. Box 437778

TAKE ME OUT

Single Mum, 32, cuddly larger lady, 5'8, dark brown hair, seeking someone to have fun, a dance, some drinks, meals and more with. Box 438941

LIVE, LAUGH & LOVE

Lively, attractive female, 32, 5'5", looking to meet that someone special to share life, laughter and love. Box 429124

EQUESTRIAN OF SPORT!

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, fun, lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

RAMSGATE REVIVAL

Honest, single, outgoing female, 31, 5'11", loves to go out and stay in with good company, drive etc, WLTW similar male, for friendship and more. Box 927816

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Box 426570

THE TALL GUY?

32-year-old kid, warm female, 5'6", cuddly lady, love walking my dog, cosy nights in evenings out, WLTW tall, honest, trustworthy male, for friendship. Box 430993

NO BAGGAGE, SO LET'S PACK!

Hi I'm 33, from Canterbury, non-smoker, as have heart problems, looking to meet someone who's kind, honest, loving and affectionate for romantic times. Box 438785

TRY NEW THINGS

Mum of 1, 5'11, blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old. I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH, likes keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559

R U THE 1?

Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5'11, brown hair/eyes, Tonbridge, seeks caring, loyal male for friendship, leading to more. Box 433107

ROMANCE IS ALIVE

Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, enjoys time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 431930

THE GENTLE LADY

Easilygoing female with GSOH, 36, enjoys many things - going out, staying in, seeking a nice, genuine guy for lots of love and laughter. Box 437913

SECOND THAT EMOTION!

I'm an attractive, dark-haired female, 36, who enjoys cinema, coffees, theatre and socialising, seeking a fun, caring, considerate, romantic gent, for a chat and more. Box 436807

PRETTY WOMAN WANTS HER

Hi I'm 37, 5'8, mousy long hair, grey eyes, n's, large bubbly lady, love pubs, country walks, bird-watching, seeking tall, tactle, n's gent, possibly romantic! Box 435674

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5'4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

DON'T PASS ME BY

Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897963

TAKE A CHANCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414159

NICE AND LOVING

44yr old female, 5'5", brown hair, slim-medium build, enjoys pubs, clubs, if you are out there, give us a ring! Maidstone. Box 413445

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

44yr old female, blonde hair, 5'10, slim, enjoys most things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Petite, single mum of 2, way blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLTW N's man to share things with. Box 429682

NO GAME PLAYERS!

Hi, I'm 46, music, laughter, sensitivity, and love, I guess that's what I want, but with some special, are you him? Box 156955

DON'T PASS ME BY

Friendy, bubbly, fun-loving woman, 45, 5'4", GSOH, enjoys socialising, pubs, music, eating in/out, own home/care, smoker, looking for honest man 44-55, who enjoys life. Box 823441

MADE TO LOVE YOU

Baby blue-eyed female, 46, long blonde hair, 5'10, medium-build, not bad looking! likes going to clubs, cinema, music, seeking nice guys for possible relationship. Box 949347

ON A PLATE

Caring, honest 49yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, redhead, likes cinema, theatre, walking, WLTW male for fun and friendship. Box 895229

SHINE A LIGHT ON ME

I'm Dawn, 47, quite shy and reserved, looking for someone special. I'm 5'8, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, active, have one dog, work full time. Box 438795

NEW IN TOWN

Marlene, 48, blonde hair, medium build, likes 4x4, gym, good biking, a glass of wine, cinema, rugby/soccer/cricket, WLTW sincere guy for friendship and companionship. Box 894117

THE WIT TO WHO!

Kent female, 39, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks lady, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152882

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE

Honest lady, 40, slim build, like walks, cinema, looking for nice man to share quality time together and cuddles. Box 437940

NO REGRETS

Bubbly, separated female, 40, slim build, love meeting new people and enjoying life, looking for an understanding man for happiness. Box 895245

NEVER SAY NEVER

Decent 36yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, take-40, fun, fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 736664

ACTIVE ANGEL

Hi, I'm a fun-loving woman early 40, 5'11", curvy, enjoy eating out and cooking to walking, looking for man for happiness. Box 894395

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JOIN ME BABY

Fun loving, wondrous woman, 41, 5'11, enjoys dining out, walking, cinema, looking for a confident man with GSOH, n's for friendship & maybe more. Box 895898

ROUND TWO

41yr old female, separated with 3 children, medium-build, dark hair, seeking a male to share life with again who enjoys socialising, cinema, music and holidays! Box 427639

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, WLTW a like-minded, male to share fun times with. Box 435102

FOREVER YOURS

I'm Caroline, 42, single mum, likes having fun, eating out, wine bars, swimming, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55, Dover. Box 435441

READY TO START AGAIN

Hi, I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, divorced, hard-working, WLTW compatible male, stocky build, for good times, possibly LTR. Box 423992

DIG DEEPER INTO LIFE

Genuine, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55, Dover. Box 435441

IT'S IN THE AIR

Lovely female, 49, divorced, 5'11, shoulder-length blonde hair, green eyes, size 16, likes dining out, staying in, walks in the country, seeking LTR with similar male. Box 437729

SIMILAR TASTES

Hi, I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, divorced, hard-working, WLTW compatible male, stocky build, for good times, possibly LTR. Box 423992

ATTRACTIVE BRUNETTE

Love-loving, affectionate brunette, 43, size 12, N's, separated amicably with 2 lovely kids, enjoys keeping fit, seeks good looking, slim, fit, romantic male. Box 438349

COMPLETE

Bubbly female, 41, 5'2", n's, enjoys pubs, restaurants, cinema, GSOH, interior design, seeks like-minded, fun male for good times. Box 822703

TAKE A CHANCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414159

BRIGHTON UP MY WORLD

Loving and loyal 49yr old female, GSOH, enjoys walking, countryside, cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 45-65 for friendship. Box 900974

WHITSTABLE WONDERLAND

Hi, I'm Yvette, 50, separated, blonde hair/eyes, size 12, 5'5", likes cinema, meals and drinks out, reading, walks, looking for male, 40-60, for relationship. Box 420160

PUTTER IN YOUR HANDS!

Sporty female, 50, Hastings-based, 5'8", blonde/blue, enjoys golf, walking, socialising, eating in/out, WLTW fun-loving, kind, sporty male, 48-60, 5'10", to share life with. Box 165367

LAST CHANCE

Lively, understanding female, 51, large build, WLTW genuine, loving male, 45, 5'8", for lasting, loving relationship. Faversham. Box 398271

INDEPENDENT WOMAN

Bright, bubbly lady, 52, 5'4", blonde hair, recently divorced, own home and car, enjoys cinema, eating out, drinks, looking for companionship and friendship. Box 419966

KENT CALLING!

Hi, I'm kind, caring, attractive lady, 53yr young, 5'7", brown hair/eyes, GSOH, enjoys walks, reading, travelling etc, WLTW tall, considerate man for friendship and possibly LTR. Box 439240

EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Happily divorced female, 56, 5'4", slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, attractive, intelligent, likes a laugh, the cinema, cooking, WLTW compatible male for every day romance... Box 439231

LIKES THE NICE THINGS IN LIFE

Honest female, 50, 5'4", own home, great job and friends, likes to keep fit, hobbies include shopping, cooking, dining out, theatre/cinema, holidays, seeking friendship and more. Box 434901

Women seeking women

Love to laugh
Loving, young 25yr old female with a kind heart and passion for life, short hair, blue eyes, likes music, socialising, seeks a like-minded female. Box 431117

ANIMAL MAGIC!

Attractive, independent professional male, 40, own home/care, loves wine drinking, the sun, holidays, cinema, pubs occasionally, seeking a fun, sincere, loving female to enjoy each other's company. Box 434103

MINDS HIS OWN BUSINESS!

Attractive guy, nice to be with, laid-back, 40, 5'4", medium build, dark brown hair, own business/home, enjoys walks, pubs, wine, restaurants, cinema. Box 435191

COOL, CALM & COLLECTED

Relaxed Poles, 39, enjoys finer things in life, seeking genuine female, to enhance my world and enjoy life with. Box 408404

TRAVEL COMPANION

NS female, 63, disability scooter user, GSOH, seeks straight, fit female to share 17 day Med cruise, 1 paid for, as helpful companion. Box 438793

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NOT ASKING FOR MUCH

Fun loving, bubbly, tactle lady, 50s, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in, I'm voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903560

COUNTRY LOVE

Partially disabled 58yr old country woman, 55, fairly attractive, enjoys gardening, home life, WLTW country loving man for company and possibly LTR. Box 439065

I'M JUST LIKE BAGPUS!

I'm 59, smoke/drink and live a motorbike but I'm intelligent, sensitive, caring and loving, with GSOH and many friends, but still looking for someone special. Box 895919

PUT SPARK INTO LIFE

Happy contented solvent lady, 59, N's, living in the country near Hythe, seeks gentleman of similar disposition and interests. Box 893292

PERHAPS A COFFEE?

61-year-old lively, divorcee, blonde, smart, medium build, looking for a gentleman to be bright in shining armour. Box 439019

NEW FOUNDATIONS

Solvent, cuddly female, 59, 5'1", love the countryside, foreign travel, seeks happy, solvent male, 50s-62, for affection and TLC. Box 394179

EXPERIENCE ALL THAT'S BEST

Divorced lady, 61, N's, medium build, loves movies, classic music, comedy, restaurants, cooking, gardening, reading, driving, seeks tactle man, for some time. Box 438584

POPCORN FOR 2?

Hi, I'm Anne, 50, 5'2", medium build, brown hair/eyes, enjoy bowling, cinema, meals out, walks, like shares, WLTW a like-minded man to share interests with. Box 438974

BOOK AROUND THE CLOCK

Loving, lively, cuddly female, 50, 5'4", loves rock music, walking, films, WLTW easygoing male for uncomplicated relationship. Box 894295

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MAKE THE MOST OF NOW

Widowed female, 62, WLTW trustworthy, honest caring guy 62-65 to share and enjoy the simple life, not tussled if you smoke/drink etc it's too short. Box 438401

FOR THE TAKING

Sincere female, 63, loves cosy nights in/out, cinema, holidays, seeking sincere, honest male 60-65 to share and perhaps romance with. Box 438568

LADY IN WAITING

Caring, lovely and at-heart lady, 65, 5'8", blonde hair, looking for someone nice, friendly, who likes eating out, restaurants, holidays, for company. Box 899242

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Love to laugh
Loving, young 25yr old female with a kind heart and passion for life, short hair, blue eyes, likes music, socialising, seeks a like-minded female. Box 431117

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HAPPY TIMES TOGETHER

Active male, 40, divorced, 5'11", medium build, blue eyes, enjoys swimming, pubs, clubs, evenings in/out, most things, seeks like-minded female for a LTR. Box 410794

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



PROPERTY NEWS

Research shows a trend towards long term investment

NEW research indicates the demand for five year fixed rate mortgages is increasing as buyers look for stability in a market which is growing increasingly uncertain.

Research by Abbey uncovered the growing desire among buyers which has taken place over recent months.

Director of Abbey Mortgages Nici Audhlam-Gardiner said the results showed people were "keener than ever" to obtain long term security when it comes to purchasing a home.

Other companies who are active in the housing market say they uncovering similar findings.

A survey by FairInvestment.co.uk discovered that 40 per cent of those who responded would be interested in a 25 year fixed-rate deal on their properties.

The findings come at a time when the Government is keen to regulate the housing market more and more.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling has expressed a wish to see longer term mortgage deals become more commonplace.

First time buyers look to continent

FIRST time buyers looking to get on the housing ladder are increasingly looking abroad for their first buy.

This is a new trend according to industry analysts and is in contrast to the usual moves by UK investors to buy a second home in countries such as France, Spain or Portugal.

The attraction in continental countries is the lower property prices – usually more associated with holiday homes than first time buys.

In some cases the foreign homes are bought merely as an investment while their owners continue to rent in the UK.

They are then either rented out themselves to bring in cash or resold when the market becomes more buoyant.

"People want to step on the ladder, but they are having to go overseas to do so," said one industry analyst.

Britain's buyers have traditionally accounted for a large part of the Spanish housing market, which is in turn a substantial part of the country's economy.

Share the load and you'll survive the market nightmare

MOAT Housing Association's sales and marketing director Marilyn DiCara tells us why HomeBuy purchasers can benefit from a tough housing and lending market:

We are assaulted by almost daily reports of mortgage lenders closing for new lending or demanding ever larger deposits from house hunters.

But in a tough housing and financial market, there are still areas of the market providing an excellent deal for both home buyers and lenders.

The HomeBuy shared ownership schemes, where buyers purchase only part of the equity of a home, represent lower risk for both buyers and lenders.

The issue of housing affordability has not gone away. While prices have stabilised, they are still extremely high by historic standards.

Ten times

In many parts of London and the South East the average house price is more than ten times local income – well out of reach for most first time buyers.

Even if prices drop by ten per cent, as some commentators think possible, homes will still not be affordable for large numbers of local people.

In that context, products that

make house buying cheaper and spread the risk should prices go down look incredibly attractive, and put people in a good position for when the market picks up again.

Through HomeBuy, people can purchase anything from 50 to 85 per cent of a property, with a housing association like Moat retaining the remaining share of the property.

The buyer pays an interest charge of 1.75 per cent a year on the equity value retained by the housing association.

When the property is sold, any gain or decline in value is shared in proportion to the equity shares owned by the two parties.

On some new build properties it is possible to buy slightly lower percentages. The charge arrangements differ a little too, but broadly the scheme operates in a similar way.

HomeBuy is backed by government grants paid to the housing association to help subsidise the cost to the buyer, as part of the Government's policy of helping to make house buying affordable for first time buyers and key workers.

As we go through the tougher times, buying a property through HomeBuy will remain a great way for people to achieve their home ownership dream, at an affordable price, with lower risk, and with some comfort for their mortgage lender too.



INVESTMENT: Marilyn DiCara is positive about the benefits of the HomeBuy scheme

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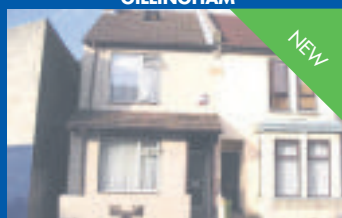
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- In Need of Light Refurbishment

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OIRO £220,000

Headcorn



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- Quiet Yet Central Location
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OIEO £325,000

Kings Hill



- 5 Bedroom Detached
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- Cul-de-sac Location

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Lenham Village



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Maidstone



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Snodland



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- Cul De Sac Position
- En-Suite To Master Bedroom

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£222,500


Staplehurst



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- En-Suite to Master Bedroom
- Garage & Parking for 2 Cars

Enquire Staplehurst
£275,000


Ditton



- 3 Bedroom Extended Home
- Own Garage and Driveway
- Vacant Possession

Enquire Larkfield
OIEO £200,000

Maidstone Town Centre



- 1 Bedroom Apartment
- Town Centre Location
- Stamp Duty Paid

Enquire Maidstone
£134,995


Headcorn



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- Two Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking

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Marden



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OIRO £475,000

Kings Hill



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- 2 Parking Spaces

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Doddington



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Maidstone



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Mote House is like having my own country house hotel. From my new home in 'The Walled Garden' I could just wander over for a coffee in the bistro or entertain friends.

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Phase One, 'The Walled Garden', is available for occupation this summer and consists of twenty four 2 & 3 bedroom homes.

Come and have a look. The marketing suite is open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday. The entrance is on Willington Street, Maidstone. Guide prices from £490,000.

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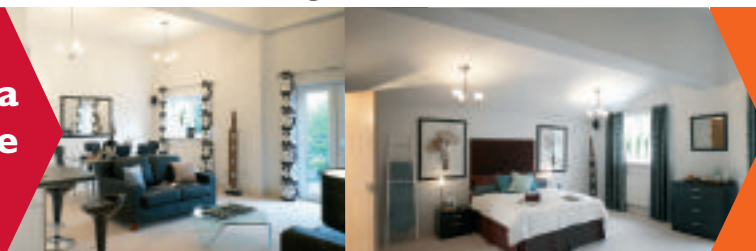
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MOTORS NEWS



Insignia's disguised to tackle the photo spies

VAUXHALL has been teasing the motoring paparazzi by releasing shots of this 'official' camouflaged Insignia – the car replacing the current Vectra later this year.

Spyshots of undisguised prototypes of a major new model like the Insignia can command five-figure sums from the scoop-hungry motoring press.

The Insignia is intended to spearhead a drive upmarket for Vauxhall – the same job Ford is attempting with the all-new Mondeo launched last year.

To the same end, the famous Vauxhall badge depicting a Griffin has also been modernised to reflect this new prestige pitch from the General Motors brand.



Two final hits as sun sets on classic Ibiza

SEAT's all-new Ibiza may be set for a summer launch, but two special editions should deliver hits for the current car.

The Freerider and Sportrider are based on the three-door Ibiza and laden with extras and at tempting prices: the £8,995 Freerider has a eco-friendly three-cylinder 1.2 engine capable of averaging around 47mpg with just 139 g/km of CO2 and comes with cruise and climate control, alloys and electric mirrors.

The Sportrider starts at £9,495 with a choice of power plus even more extras.



VW add sporty diesel to boost Tiguan appeal

VW has boosted demand for its smart new Tiguan 4x4 with a dynamic new 2.0-litre diesel from £22,670.

With 168bhp and lower emissions now expected from modern diesels, allied to a six-speed gearbox, this Tiguan neatly balances performance and economy.

The new engine can average some 40mpg while emitting 185g/km of CO2 – modest for this class – yet it is also the fastest Tiguan model with a top speed of 125 mph.



SEVEN UP: Chevrolet's Captiva can seat up to seven people and with a relatively cheap lead-in price of £16,995 typifies the American car giant's 'more bangs for yer bucks' marketing

It pays to look beyond the captivating Chevy's price

NOT sure that Louis Chevrolet would have liked the little cars bearing his name.

But the former racing driver and fan of big and powerful cars might have admired the butch new UK addition to the brand he founded in 1911 – the five-seven-seat Captiva SUV (sports utility vehicle).

Though still a small player here, Chevrolet recorded one of 2007's biggest gains in market share (27 per cent).

The Captiva's launch midway helped, typifying Chevy's 'more bangs for yer bucks' marketing and using a crazy £16,995 lead-in price, but this proves to be a two-wheel drive only, five-seater with asthmatic 134bhp 2.4-litre petrol engine that is best avoided, although it comes with alloys, air con and six-speaker sounds with controls on the steering wheel.

The 'real deal' is the punchier 148bhp 2.0-litre turbodiesel, with 4x4, electronic stability and descent controls and more, but the price jumps three grand – even more for seven seats.

However, few modern rivals challenge the

ROAD TEST CHEVROLET CAPTIVA

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

big Chevy for space and seven seats and the American 'aura' of the badge – despite adulteration by baby Chevrolets like the Matiz city car – has extra appeal, especially as the '...drove my Chevy to the levee' line from Don McLean's American Pie resonates with the 35-44 target age group.

Having opted for diesel and seven seats, you then face a further £1,000 question – do I go for the optional auto 'box'?

Yes. The five-speed manual is not the slickest, whereas the five-speed auto makes the big Captiva an effortless drive with a slick manual-select option if you wish.

And you might, because 4x4 Captivas are capable of limited off-roading even if ride height is modest. The car is also quite nimble on-road without the degree of roll suggested by its size. Emissions and fuel consumption for the auto are a little high for our new greener era though.

While relatively cheap for a big SUV seating up to seven, the cabin is durable and tasteful, with the generous stowage you find in US brands, a well-arranged dashboard, plus decent legroom for both rear rows of seats.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

BUDGET-BEATING BUDGET CARS

DESPITE postponement of a promised increase in fuel tax, the latest Budget escalated the Government's war against fuel consumption and emissions, but hard-pressed motorists do not need to buy new to cut the cost of their driving. The used market offers many used city cars and superminis and most are frugal; some even fall into the desirable £35/year Band B for vehicle excise duty. Even if they don't, the fuel savings should soon make you happier with downsizing to something more in step with greener and more wallet-friendly motoring.

carsfor Kent.co.uk

FIAT PANDA



FIAT'S baby was deservedly European Car of the Year in 2004. It shows that a space efficient interior does not have to go with a dull utilitarian exterior – the Panda could function as a van, but looks far more interesting. The distinctive five-door Italian is also fun to drive and cheap to tax, insure and fuel, yet features cutting-edge technology. A lively turbodiesel option – averaging 65+mpg – rugged 4x4 version and hot 100hp model add to the line-up's attractions.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

HYUNDAI GETZ



IT is ageing now, but the Getz signalled Hyundai's arrival on the European motor scene, with a thoroughly modern supermini. It does not excel in any area really, but neither does the Korean car fall short anywhere either. Available in three and five-door form with a five-year warranty, it also has some engines in road tax band-B, including an efficient diesel. Securing a good deal – with some warranty intact – should not be hard either, though reliability is not a worry.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

FORD KA



THOUGH it is due for the chop, the Ka nevertheless remains in demand new and used. None of the ageing engines allow it to qualify for band-B, but the quirky-looking three-door car is a no-nonsense affordable runabout and there are plenty on the market to choose from. If it has a fault, then it is that the styling tends to attract women buyers – and put off the blokes – but it is a good drive, being based on a previous Fiesta.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
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Model shown is Fabia 1 1.2 60bhp at £7,900 RRP.

FABIA

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 - 08 FABIA 2 1.2 12V SDR HATCH SATIN GREY
COST NEW £10,190.00 SAVING £1,500.00
PRICE TO YOU £8,690.00
 - 08 FABIA 2 1.2 12V SDR HATCH BLACK MAGIC
COST NEW £10,780.00 SAVING £1,500.00
PRICE TO YOU £9,280.00
 - 08 FABIA 2 1.2 12V SDR HATCH BRILLIANT SILVER
COST NEW £10,310.00 SAVING £1,500.00
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 - 08 FABIA 2 1.2 12V SDR HATCH CORRIDIA RED
COST NEW £10,430.00 SAVING £1,500.00
PRICE TO YOU £8,930.00
 - 08 FABIA 2 1.2 12V SDR HATCH ANTHRACITE GREY
COST NEW £10,780.00 SAVING £1,500.00
PRICE TO YOU £9,280.00
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Model shown is Octavia Classic 1.6 FSI 115bhp at £12,600 RRP including optional metallic paint at £350 RRP.

OCTAVIA

EX-DEMONSTRATORS

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 - 57 OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 2.0 TDI SDR HATCH HIGHLAND GREEN
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PRICE TO YOU £11,990.00
 - 07 OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 FSI SDR HATCH CORRIDIA RED
COST NEW £18,805.00 SAVING £4,815.00
PRICE TO YOU £13,990.00
 - 57 OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 TDI SDR HATCH CORRIDIA RED
COST NEW £20,570.00 SAVING £4,280.00
PRICE TO YOU £16,290.00
 - 57 OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI SDR ESTATE STORM BLUE
COST NEW £16,835.00 SAVING £3,845.00
PRICE TO YOU £12,990.00
 - 57 OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 TDI SDR ESTATE RACE BLUE
COST NEW £21,420.00 SAVING £5,930.00
PRICE TO YOU £15,490.00
 - 57 OCTAVIA L&K 2.0 FSI AUTO SDR ESTATE FLAMENCO RED
COST NEW £20,380.00 SAVING £3,890.00
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Model shown is Roomster Scout 1.4 16v 85bhp at £12,990 RRP including optional metallic paint at £350 RRP.

ROOMSTER

EX-DEMONSTRATORS

- 07 ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.4 16V SDR MPV STORM BLUE
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 - 57 ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.4 16V SDR MPV CAPPUCCINO BEIGE
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 - 07 ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.6 16V SDR MPV OCEAN BLUE
COST NEW £12,590.00 SAVING £2,600.00
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 - 57 ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.6 16V SDR MPV ANTHRACITE GREY
COST NEW £13,280.00 SAVING £2,790.00
PRICE TO YOU £10,490.00
 - 57 ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.6 16V SDR MPV FLAMENCO RED
COST NEW £13,250.00 SAVING £2,760.00
PRICE TO YOU £10,490.00
 - 57 ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.9 TDI SDR MPV STORM BLUE
COST NEW £13,980.00 SAVING £2,990.00
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 - 07 ROOMSTER LEVEL 3 1.4 16V SDR MPV OCEAN BLUE
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*Minimum 30% deposit required. †Available on Octavia Classic and Ambiente models only. Retail sales only. Offers and prices available to over 18s for registrations and orders taken from 1st April 2008 and before 30th June 2008 (subject to availability). Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Skoda Finance is a trading name of Volkswagen Financial Services (UK) Limited, Freeport VWFS.

ALFA ROMEO

156 1.6 16v Turismo, immobiliser, power steering, cd player, stereo, red, 48000 miles, £4699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

AUDI

A3, T SPORT 5dr, immobiliser, central locking, remote central locking, adjustable cd player, 16" alloys, blue, 55000 miles, £6950, Lifestyle Ford Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 0844 846514 (TRADE)

A4, - 2.0 TDI S LINE 4DR, silver, 2005, 32059 miles, manual, diesel, 4 doors, 1 previous owners, silver, £15990, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES 323i, central locking, air bag, colour coded body, montreal blue met, 70000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CADILLAC

CTS 3.6 SPORT luxury v6, 2005, light platinum with black leather, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7V8 auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal met with dark and light slate gr, 10577 miles, £18950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

DODGE

CALIBER, 1.8 SE 5dr, 14/04/2007, cd player power steering electric windows, black, 5700 miles, £2499, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 992321 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, SPORT, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, red, 2000 miles, £10495, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 150, air conditioning, alloy wheels, traction control, trip computer, symphony blue, £11995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FORD

FORD CONNECT 1.200, 05 05 2004, 1.8 tdi swb white 82,000 miles, £3995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD FIESTA ZETEC, 06 06, 1.4 tdi 5dr met blue, 9, 000 miles one owner, £5995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD KA, 08 2003, 1.3 petrol ex bt white 29,000 miles fsh, £2495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD MONDEO ESTATE, 08 1998, 1.6 ix metallic silver 98,000 miles mot sep 08 air icon, £995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, CDI EXECUTIVE, 2005, trim: leather engine size: 2200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, grey, 33000 miles, £11995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

CR-V - 2.0 i-VTEC EXECUTIVE 5dr, black, 2004, 33338 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 2 previous owners, black, £11990, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT 1.3, 2002, silver, 41625 miles, £2995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

AMICA, - 1.1 CDX 5DR, 2006, 4917 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 1 previous owners, silver, £4695, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

ISUZU

TROOPER, 3.00TD Commercial 4WD, please contact commercial sales department for further information, green, 24800 miles, £8990, SMC Ford Crayford, Crayford, 0844 4999792 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 AUTO, 183cc ksq, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lamps, parking sensor, rear headrests, full leather traction control, climate control, cruise control, twin air bags, curtain airbags, abs, trip computer, centre armrest, alloy wheels, blue, 58700 miles, £5995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8555 4000 (TRADE)

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 18000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

FREELANDER, 2001, blue metallic with grey, 61500 miles, £4495, ULM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 2000, copper bronze metallic with grey two tone leather, 52000 miles, £4695, ULM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

LEXUS

GS300, GS 300 SE, remote alarm, central locking, full leather, electric seats, cd player, climate control, electric windows, electric mirrors, 15" alloys, blue, 120000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

GS300, GS 300 SE, full leather, cd player, climate control, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, head restraints, power steering, immobiliser, remote alarm, electric seats, 16" alloys, grey, £7999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MAZDA

323, 1.6 GXI 5dr [ac], green, 2002, 37000 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 2 previous owners, green, £3689, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

323, 1.6 TS 5dr, red, 2005, 30036 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 1 previous owners, red, £7995, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

626, - 2.0 GXI, silver, 2000, 52000 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 2 previous owners, silver, £2389, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

RX8, - 232 LEATHER SPORTS PK, storm blue, 2006, 1 miles, manual, petrol, 4 doors, blue, £19789, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

RX8, - 4DR [192], red, 2004, 19800 miles, manual, petrol, 4 doors, 2 previous owners, red, £10489, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

230 SPORT KOMPRESSION, 1998, fantastic car with full ivory leather interior full sport pack, lilac/blue, 57, 000 miles, £5999.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A140 AVANTGARDE (facelift model) just 22000 miles, 60kWh, remote alarm, remote central locking, half leather, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, air conditioning, cd player, 15" alloys, white dials, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock we will not be beaten on price! fully fsh regulated, atoll blue metallic, 22000 miles, £7995, DW Leisure Mercedes Benz Specialist, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

C CLASS, C180 ESPRIT AUTO, power steering, abs, electric front windows, air conditioning, twin air bags, cruise control, remote alarm, electric mirrors, remote central locking, radio cassette, rear headrests, previously sold and serviced by ourselves, grey black metallic, 73000 miles, £3995, DW Leisure Mercedes Benz Specialist, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

MG

ZR, 105 TROPHY SE 3dr, remote central locking, half leather, air conditioning, cd player, immobiliser, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, head restraints, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, radio, 16" alloys, aluminium silver, 29000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 2006, silver, 7086 miles, £15995, WJ King Vauxhall, Bromley, 020 8464 3456 (TRADE)

ONE, 1.6 2dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, electric front windows, electric windows, multi-disc cd player, electric mirrors, parking sensor, green met, 33572 miles, £10999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.1 C21, 2006, abs body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer, lunar silver, 3500 miles, £5995, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

SHOGRIN, 3.2 DI-DC EQUIPPE 3DR AUTO, 08, save over, silver, 25 miles, £24144, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 0844 5762476 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

PEUGEOT EXPERT 815, 12 2004, 1.9d 3 seats twin doors lined 74,000 miles fsh, £5400, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT EXPERT 815, 09 2005, 1.0d 3 seats twin doors, 4000 miles lined met, £5995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

106, 1.1 ZEST 3 Hatchback 3d 1124cc, v6, power steering, e/w, central locking, sun roof, ideal first car low insurance and tax good economy, blue, miles, £2299.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

106, 1.1 ZEST 3DR, 21/08/1998, electric sunroof immobiliser, red, 36828 miles, £1999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

206, 1.4 S, 2000, silver with charcoal special trim, 58000 miles, £2995, ULM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

206, 1.4 S, 2004, metallic silver, 45000 miles, £4495, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

307, S, 12113696256, air conditioning, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, power steering, remote central locking, split/folding rear seats, trip computer, aluminium, 13391 miles, £5995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

RENAULT KANGOO SL17 DC170 PLUS, 11 2004, 1.5cdi side door cd elec pack 33,000 miles white, £4500, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CLIO, 1.2 FIDJI LTD EDN Hatchback 3d 1171cc, november 08 mot ideal 1st car, blue, miles, £595, DCD Autos, Ashford, 01233 642211 (TRADE)

CLIO, 1.2 PANACHE LTD EDN Hatchback 3d 1149cc, 7/30th, new mot good 1st car, red, miles, £895.00, DCD Autos, Ashford, 01233 642211 (TRADE)

CLIO, SX TURBO DYNAMIQUE, 2007, trim: cloth engine size: 1500 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, extreme blue, 9000 miles, £10295, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

MEGANE, DYNAMIQUE 1.9 DCI, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1900 transmission: manual no. of doors: 2, hessian, 26000 miles, £11995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

ROVER

200, 216 CABRIOLET, 1997, grey, 0 miles, £1295, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

25, 1.4 GSI 5DR [103PS], 25/03/2005, cd player alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, grey, 10772 miles, £5999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

SEAT

ALTEA, 2.0 TDI SPORT 5dr DSG, 10/01/2006, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 23475 miles, £10999, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

IBIZA, 1.2, 2004, silver, 29123 miles, £4495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

LEON, 2.0 T FSI FR DSG 5DR Hatchback, 57/2007, pas central locking climate control mp3 cd player cruise control alloy wheels & much more!! blue, 3, 000 miles, £16,885, Chertlon Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

LEON, 2.0 16V TDI Stylance 5dr, 01/03/2007, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 14271 miles, £11999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

SMART

CITY-COUPÉ, electric windows, abs, air bag, twin air bags, electric front windows, power steering, electric mirrors, cd player, radio, stereo, 15" alloys, silver/black, 25907 miles, £4999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

SUBARU

LEGACY, GL SPORT AWD, alloy wheels, 4x4, silver, £2900 miles, £5990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

TOYOTA HI ACE 280 GS D4D, 09 2006, 2.5 td 88 swb white 21,000 miles fsh rear tailgate, £3995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

AVENSIS, 1.8 VVTi GS 5DR, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser, silver, 28745 miles, £4999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CALICA, VTI-4, 2006, red, 20000 miles, £11495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

CALICA, VTI-4, 2003, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, 15" alloys, aluminium silver, 50000 miles, £7699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

RAV 4, X3 D 4D, front fog lamps, roof rails, rear headrests, rear wash/wipe, electric sunroof, twin air bags, power steering, alloy wheels, 4x4, com silk, 70000 miles, £7495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8555 4000 (TRADE)

YARIS, GS 3DR, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, electric windows, air bag, stereo, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, blue, 70000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

VAUXHALL ASTRA ENVOY, 10 2004, 1.7cdi, £4495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL COMBO 1700, 10 2006, 1.3 cdti side door white 26,000 miles fsh, £5850, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

AGILA, EXP 1.4, 27637, finished in royal blue with black interior manual, black, 0 miles, £4695, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 1.8i 16V SRI (Exterior pack) 5 door, black sapphire, 15000 miles, £11495.00, Greens Vauxhall Holborough, Snodland, 01634 246750 (TRADE)

ASTRA, SXI 1.6 TWINPORT ESTATE, 2006, star silver with charcoal-sports trim, 23000 miles, £5945, ULM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

CORSA, 1.0i LIFE a/c 3 door, g107 yro, star silver, 8500 miles, £7995.00, Greens Vauxhall Holborough, Snodland, 01634 246750 (TRADE)

NEW CORSA, 2007, black sapphire, 0 miles, £3295, WJ King Vauxhall, Farnham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

TIGRA, 2008, black sapphire, 0 miles, £13495, WJ King Vauxhall, Swanley, 01322 662890 (TRADE)

VECTRA, - 2.0 T SRI 5DR, black, 2006, 18000 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

BEEETLE, 1.9 TDI 3dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, electric front windows, electric mirrors, shadow blue met, 11883 miles, £11999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

GOLF, 2.0 AVANTGARDE CABRIOLET 2D, lovely car, purple, 75, 000 miles, £3200.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

GOLF, 2.8 V6 4Motion Hatchback 5d, silver, 59000 miles, £4390, Queensborough Salvage, Queensborough, 01795 661133 (TRADE)

GOLF, 2.8 VR6, 1998, black, 93000 miles, £2500, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

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Have you, as a graduate, considered becoming a teacher, which currently pays £14,751 during training?

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University, is inviting applicants to join the Graduate Teacher Programme from September 2008 in:

- English • ICT • Music • Mathematics • Science • Religious Education

Further details, including an application form, are available from the school's website, www.st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk or from Mike O'Shea, e-mail: moshea@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

The closing date for applications is **Wednesday, 7 May.**

Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people.



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If you are an ambitious financial manager who would relish the growth of responsibility and opportunities for professional development that will arise within an expanding organisation over the coming years, this role could be just what you're looking for.

The key aspects of your work will be to:

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- Be responsible for all aspects of the Statutory Accounts
- Perform regular internal financial audits.
- Prepare end of year accounts in accordance with SORPS requirements currently in place

You will also provide cover for the Deputy Chief Executive when required, meaning that you'll gain a comprehensive understanding of the organisation and be able to make a full contribution to its future progress.

To be considered for this role you should have a formal accounting qualification, solid experience of accounting procedures/double entry book-keeping and computerised accounting systems. Experience within the voluntary sector would be advantageous.

For an application form contact: **KCA (UK), 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351**
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, www.kca.org.uk

Closing date: **21st April 2008**
Interview date: **29th April 2008**

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No: 292824

IMPROVING PROSPECTS. ACHIEVING RESULTS

Mid Kent College

We are one of the most successful colleges in the South East region providing further and higher education. We are committed to improving the diversity of our staff by offering a wide range of opportunities including apprenticeships, flexible working and full and part-time positions. Why not look at what we can offer you.

Health and Safety Co-ordinator and Deputy Estates Manager
£29,245 - £32,917 pa

In this newly-created position, you will be central to our £70 million Campus 21 rebuild project, enjoying involvement from the beginning. Our mission is to create a state-of-the-art college with superb facilities, and you will help us make it happen, as you develop effective policies and procedures, actively investigate any incidents and ensure compliance with changing legislation, whilst assisting in the daily management of our large estate.

Highly experienced in Health and Safety roles, you will ideally hold a NEBOSH Certificate and will certainly be fully versed in best practice and CDM regulations, capable of leading training programmes and ready to manage a complex workload. Above all, you are unrelenting in setting standards and ensuring their attainment - and keen to make your mark on our College for decades to come.

All posts will require a Criminal Record Bureau Enhanced Disclosure Certificate.

The benefits in joining us are immense: generous annual leave; flexible working hours; full support including an on-site nursery; final salary pension; Health & Fitness suite and more.

For further details, a job description and an application form, please contact the HR department on 01732 376511 or email hr-dept@kwc.ac.uk

Closing date: **noon, 24 April 2008.**

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Discover your Potential

Mid-Kent College is one of the largest providers of Further Education in Kent with over 12,000 students, 800 staff and an income in excess of £27m.

Located at four sites in Maidstone, Chatham and Rochester we will open our new £82 million campus to students in September 2009.

Trustee for new park in Gillingham

A new park is being built off Medway Road, Gillingham. The park will be owned and operated by an independent trust. We are now seeking one trustee from local residents. The successful applicant will have experience of working on a voluntary or elected body; a strong commitment to the local area and an enthusiasm for heritage and/or ecological issues.

The closing date for applications is **18th April 2008.**

For more information, please contact Jane Jones on **01634 884399** or jane.jones@midkent.ac.uk.

Accredited Business College

Admin Support Worker Care

Due to expanding and developing care services we require an experienced administrator 37 hours per week Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

The post holder will:-

- Have some interface with children, young people, families and other healthcare professionals
- Collate and prepare data in various formats, using all Microsoft packages
- Undertake a range of general office duties.

You must :-

- Be highly IT literate and present data in a compelling format
- Be flexible, adaptable, self motivated and able to work under pressure to deadlines.
- Be highly organised and able to re-prioritise a changing workload.
- Be comfortable working in a highly sensitive and confidential setting.

Salary range £14,500-£15,500, generous annual leave, pension and excellent working environment, based at our hospice in Sittingbourne.

Closing Date **Friday 2nd May, 2008**

For an information pack call our Recruitment line on 01795 845295 or for an informal chat call Ann Fagg or Wendy Faulkner on 01795 845200.

An enhanced Disclosure check will be required for the successful candidate.

Please note due to limited resources unsuccessful candidates will not be contacted and cvs will be disregarded.

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CURRENTLY RECRUITING HEALTH CARE ASSISTANTS/SUPPORT WORKERS/ REGISTERED NURSES

Initial work available in Maidstone & Tonbridge areas.

Bayada Nurses is a Nursing and Domiciliary Care Agency who specialize in home care services.

This involves short visits to people in their own homes, suitable candidates must be able to drive and have transport.

We also supply staff to both nursing/care homes and hospitals. Non drivers may be considered for these assignments.

We support our care staff to achieve NVQ qualifications.

If you are over 18 and feel you could make a difference and are committed to a career in care then we would like to hear from you.

For further details and to arrange an interview please call
Julie Epsley Free on **0800 084 2200** (9.00am - 10.00pm)
Email: info@bayada.co.uk **www.bayada.co.uk**

These positions are subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure

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Experienced Laboratory Technicians

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We have a number of vacancies for laboratory technicians, working in the Agglutination, EIA and Quality Control departments. The main purpose of the roles are to be involved in the manufacture of a range of immuno-diagnostic products, processing the key components for our assays, manufacturing liquid diagnostic reagents, qualifying the performance of the reagents and quality checking throughout the manufacturing process.

To be eligible to apply, you must have a good general level of education (GCSE or above) and a relevant education in biosciences would be advantageous.

You should be organised, have excellent communication skills, attention to detail with both good written and verbal skills. You will be able to accurately follow procedures and adhere to all Health and Safety guidelines. You must be able to adapt to change efficiently and learn new techniques and procedures rapidly.

Please apply in writing with a current CV and details of your salary expectations to the HR Department, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Clipper Boulevard West, Crossways, Dartford, Kent, DA2 6PT or e mail it to remel.recruitment@thermofisher.com

The closing date for application is Midday Friday 25 April 2008.

Campaigns Managers (two posts)

Visit Kent is the official tourism marketing body for Kent. We are a public/private sector marketing partnership with over 75 stakeholders supporting Kent's £2.1bn visitor economy.

We are seeking two energetic and experienced Campaigns Managers to join the marketing team based in Canterbury. Working as part of a small team we need a Manager with website management and development experience to oversee our electronic marketing activity and another Manager with PR and media relations experience and ideally exhibitions experience, to oversee our PR and exhibitions programme. Both will have their own campaigns to run and be part of the marketing strategy and delivery team in support of Visit Kent's investors and the tourism industry in Kent. A passion for Kent and enthusiasm for destination marketing and partnership working is essential.

Salary £26,000 p.a.

Visit www.visitkent.co.uk/business for more details of the positions and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk
Closing date for applications: 22nd April 2008

Interviews to be held on 28th April & 2nd May in Canterbury. This advertisement first appeared on 9th April 2008.

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the District and Borough Councils, Tourism South East and the leading private sector tourism businesses in Kent.



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Community Training and Education Officer (Valley of Visions)

Starting salary £22,825, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,159 pro rata 22.2 hours per week - Fixed Term to November 2010 initially
The Cedars, Snodland

Do you enjoy working with people, have a passion for conserving and celebrating the countryside, and also enjoy a challenge? Then you may have the mix of skills we are looking for. Why not be a part of the Valley of Visions? This is an exciting opportunity to join a new team that is making a real difference in the Medway Gap, a place of dramatic contrasts lying within and beside the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

We have the funding and local support in place to deliver an ambitious project that takes an integrated and sustainable approach to landscape, access and heritage management. With a budget of £2.5m over three years provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund and others, this is a well-resourced and planned scheme.

You will be responsible for a budget of over £130,000, and will implement the training plan - a cross-cutting programme of training and educational activities. These will improve the capacity of the local communities, partnership organisations and the Valley of Visions team itself to conserve, enhance and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the valley.

All officers employed by the Valley of Visions Landscape Partnership Scheme work across programmes to support other team members and ensure integration of projects. The team works as part of the Kent Downs AONB Unit and you will be employed by Kent County Council. Ref: ER/o8/0072

Closing date: Midday, 18th April 2008.

Marketing and Development Adviser

Starting salary £20,061, with progression through contribution related pay to £22,825 per annum
Mid/West Kent

KEY Training Services, part of Kent County Council, is the largest work-based learning provider in the county. Operating across Kent (and delivering workplace training county-wide) we work hand-in-hand with businesses and their employees to provide them with the skills they need. As part of our continued development, we are now expanding our employer engagement - and it will be up to you to market and sell the benefits of Work Based Learning to employers.

Within this innovative environment, you will spend much of your time out visiting local employers - building strong working relationships with them and explaining our courses and services. Clearly this means that you will need excellent presentation skills and a very proactive approach. You should also have experience in a business-to-business sales role, a flair for hitting deadlines and targets, and the ability to generate new leads. Ref: CD/o8/0091

Closing date: Midday, 24th April 2008.

The above two posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

PA/Business Support Officer

Starting salary £16,627, with progression through contribution related pay to £18,288 per annum

Maidstone

We are looking for an individual who has the skills and experience to support the Head of Arts Development Unit and the rest of the team in addressing the challenges facing the Unit in 2008 and beyond.

Experience of working as a PA and knowledge of local government in Kent are essential.

For an informal chat about this post, telephone Sally Staples, Head of Arts Development Unit on 01622 696515. Ref: CD/o8/0031

Closing date: Midday, 18th April 2008.

Interview date: 9th May 2008.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote appropriate reference number.



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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Head of Quality and Standards

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £40,821 per annum
Post Ref: 08/35/KOS

Canterbury College is aiming to be the best in teaching and learning by 2010. An exciting opportunity has arisen to take on this key role in the College to drive this further forward. As Head of Quality and Standards you will be responsible for all quality review and improvement processes together with taking forward local, national and government quality initiatives with the ultimate aim being to further enhance the quality of the teaching and learning experience thereby ensuring success for all students at Canterbury College.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21 April at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



achievement development experience employability

Sheppey College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Lecturer Cross-College Key Skills

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 08/36/KOS

Senior Learning Resources Officer

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum
Post Ref: S3/KOS

Hair & Beauty Receptionist

18.5 hrs per week, 40 weeks per year term time.
Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 08/17/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21 April at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
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Section Manager Construction Crafts

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum.
Post Ref: 08/12/KOS

Higher Education Lecturer in Building Surveying

9.25 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 07/28/KOS

HE Supply Lecturers are required to teach across HNC, HND, Foundation and Honours Degree programmes in the following areas:

- Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
- HNC in Building Surveying**
- Foundation Degree in Early Years Studies**
- BA (Hons) in Health and Social Care Management**
- HND in Health and Social Care**
- FD in Counselling***
- FD in Care Management***
- HND and FD in Retail Management**

* subject to validation

Please specify your area/s of expertise in your application form
Post Ref: S/HE/KOS

Supply Lecturers Key Skills in Communications, ICT & Application of Number are required to teach across the areas of Health, Public Services and Early Years

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: S/KS/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21 April at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Media and Public Relations Officer

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £20,775 per annum
Post Ref: 08/32/KOS

Higher Education Curriculum Mentor

37 hrs per week, 38 wks per year term time.
Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Fixed-term post for two years or up until 31st July 2010
Post Ref: 08/34/KOS

Head Chef

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum
Post Ref: HC1/KOS

Trainer Demonstrator Hospitality and Catering

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 08/37/KOS

Learning Resources Centre Co-ordinator

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum
Post Ref: 07/03/KOS

Temporary Enrolment Records Assistant

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum.
Temporary posts commencing 1 June 2008 and ending on 31 October 2008
Post Ref: TERA (1-4)/KOS

Curriculum Support Assistant Construction

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time.
Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 06/201/KOS

Catering Assistant

16 hrs per week, 36 weeks per year term time.
Salary £11,801 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: CA6/KOS

Supply NVQ Assessors required in the following areas:

Early Years

Post Ref: NVQ/EY/KOS

Play work

Post Ref: NVQ/PW/KOS

Various hours available, salary range £17,727- £25,418 pro rata per annum

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21 April at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

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Rainham School for Girls

(A Specialist Technology College & Training School)
Derwent Way, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0BX. Tel: 01634 362 746
(NOR 1500) Head Teacher: Mrs J Dunn

Required for September 2008 Curriculum Leader, Geography (TLR 2b - £4,037) and Teacher of Science/Health and Social Care

Applications welcome from experienced teachers and NQTs

Any offer of employment for this post will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure. This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Application forms and further details are available from the School.

Tel: 01634 362746 Email: admin@rsg.org.uk

Closing date: 2nd May 2008

The University of Greenwich at Medway

PART TIME ICT OFFICER (FIXED TERM)

Ref: 00937/K3

Information and Library Services is seeking an experienced customer focused ICT professional to join the User Services Team of the ICT Department.

Reporting to the Campus Team Leader, the post involves providing support and advice to all members of the University for a wide range of ICT systems and services. You will be experienced at working in an operational ICT support role, dealing with desktop PCs in a networked environment, ideally with good audio visual experience and knowledge of troubleshooting and use of Microsoft and Novell products.

There will be a requirement to attend out of normal working hours where the operational needs of the University requires this. There will also be a need from time to time to travel to other sites of the University.

Hours of work are 17.5 per week.

This post is fixed term for 3 years.

Salary is pro rata to £23,002 - £27,486 per annum

We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

To obtain further particulars and an application form visit our website www.gre.ac.uk, email: jobs@gre.ac.uk or write to the Personnel Office, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5pm on 18 April 2008.



Project Worker

Starting salary £17,842 with progression through contribution related pay to £19,572 pro rata
Term-time only, initially funded till 31st August 2009
The Launch Pad, Ramsgate

Do you have experience of and commitment to working with young people?

We are seeking to appoint a project worker who is bright, full of ideas and enjoys using their initiative, to join our dedicated and highly effective staff team.

You will work at The Launch Pad supporting pupils who are serving fixed term exclusions from primary schools with a range of behaviour and learning needs. Experience of working in a school environment and/or working with pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs would be an advantage.

The Launch Pad is funded by the Thanet Behaviour Improvement Programme (BIP) schools and currently serves 18 Thanet primary schools. It is based at the Concorde Youth Centre in Ramsgate. The work also involves going into the schools to participate in reintegration, follow-up and preventative activities.

The post will require working together with a wide range of agencies and service providers to ensure the needs of the participating young people are met.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904.

Please quote reference number CFE/o8/0117

Closing date: Midday, 1 May 2008.



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Student Development Officer

£19,953 - £23,588 pa

The college is offering places to increasing numbers of students who have issues with motivation and maturity. This post will be crucial to their retention and success. Working closely with tutors and the student union, you will support the students in the management of their time (including social time), their academic targets and their relationships with peers and adults.

You will need experience of working with young people aged 14-16, including those with emotional and behavioural problems. Knowledge of the issues affecting young people in further education is important, while a youth and community qualification would be helpful.

All posts will require a Criminal Record Bureau Enhanced Disclosure Certificate.

The benefits in joining us are immense: generous annual leave; flexible working benefits; final salary pension; Health & Fitness suite and more.

For further details, a job description and an application form, please contact the HR department on 01732 376511 or email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Closing date: 12 noon, 24 April 2008.



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Social Worker – Specialist Palliative Care Ref: CA0980D

Grade B1/B2. Salary £22,122 – £33,291 per annum, post qualifying award bar at point 38.

Location: The Wisdom Hospice, Rochester.

Managing your own caseload, you will assess and respond to the needs of adults affected by serious illness, death and bereavement, with opportunities to work with individuals, families (including children) and in groups. As an advocate for service users who are at the end of life, you will provide counselling support, deal with complex practice issues and ethical dilemmas. You will work in a small team of specialist social workers and counsellors who work in partnership with health colleagues to provide high quality, seamless, therapeutic care. The service is provided across the Medway and Swale area, where service users are seen in the community, in the inpatient unit and in day hospice.

Within a supportive work environment, you will receive excellent supervision and development opportunities including the chance to attend relevant internal and external courses.

In addition to a DipSW or CQSW, you must have demonstrable post qualification experience of counselling people affected by serious illness. You must be registered, or in the process of registering with the GSCC. A full driving licence is essential. Any offer of appointment will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure. All posts will be open to part-time and job share applicants unless designated as an exception.

For an informal discussion, please contact Ann McMurray, Social Work Manager, Palliative Care or Marilyn Russell, Senior Practitioner on 01634 830456.

Closing date: 2 May, 2008.

To apply

visit www.medway.gov.uk

call 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm.

01634 332843 24-hour answerphone.

email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the reference.

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You must be friendly, polite, presentable and able to work on your own initiative. Good rates of pay, pension scheme and private health care.

To arrange and interview contact Tyrone Domaine on 01787 220556



King's Farm Primary School and Nursery PARENT SUPPORT WORKER

Full-Time post to include some school holiday hours

Grade Kent Scheme 5 (£16,221 - £17,842)

Please apply in writing direct to the school. Candidate would need to be committed to multi-agency working and ready to build on the well established extended school services.

Mrs S Garner, Headteacher

King's Farm Primary School & Nursery
Cedar Avenue, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5JT



08450 525267

Curzon Place Recruitment are urgently recruiting for

FUNCTION WAITERS AND WAITRESSES

for upcoming events in May.

Ideal candidates will have experience in this field and will be available on 17th and 23rd May initially. Most functions are all day events, so please be aware that you will be on your feet for most of the day.

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For more information please contact Becca on 08450 525267

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Activities include overseas sales trips, attendance at language fairs and company events as well as assisting with student registrations and enquiry handling.

The successful candidate will have excellent communication skills, be IT literate and must be willing to travel as the role requires some overseas visits.

This may suit a recent graduate as training will be given.

Please apply in writing enclosing a current CV to:

Carl Maidment

SES Folkestone, 26 Grimston Gardens

Folkestone CT20 2PX

principal@ses-folkestone.co.uk

Closing date: 25 April 2008

MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Burnt Oak Primary School

KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 12 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Gill Perry
Headteacher
Burnt Oak Primary School
Cornwall Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 1LP
Telephone - (01634) 852991
Fax - 01634 571283
Email
office@burntoak.medway.sch.uk

Fairview Community Primary School

Foundation Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 22 April 2008
To apply/more information
Diana Parker, Office Manager
Fairview Community Primary School
Drewery Drive
Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
Email office@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Fairview Community Primary School

Year 3
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Diana Parker
Office Manager
Fairview Community Primary School
Drewery Drive
Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
Email office@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

Gordon Junior School

KS2 Teacher (Responsibility for Literacy)
Salary: MPS + TLR 2b - £3940
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 13 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Ellen Wilson
Headteacher
Gordon Junior School
Gordon Road
Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 3HQ
Telephone - (01634) 719971
Fax - 01634 290337
Email headteacher@gordon-jun.medway.sch.uk

Hempstead Junior School

KS2 Stage 2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Temporary
Term of contract: Maternity Cover
Required From: 1 September 2008

Closing Date: 2 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mr David Bignell
Headteacher
Hempstead Junior School
Birch Grove
Hempstead
Gillingham
Kent ME7 3SD
Telephone - (01634) 371823
Fax 233328
Email office@hempsteadjnr.medway.sch.uk

High Halstow Primary School

KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Temporary
Term of contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 22 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Pat Sanford, Headteacher
High Halstow Primary
Harrison Drive
High Halstow
Rochester
Kent ME3 8TF
Telephone - (01634) 251098
Fax - 01634 255628
Email headteacher@highhalstow.medway.sch.uk

Luton Junior School

Class Teacher and Subject Leader for Music
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 24 April 2008
To apply/more information
Sheila Scott
Luton Road Junior School
Luton Road
Chatham
Kent ME4 5AW
Telephone - (01634) 844149
Fax - 01634 843582
Email scottsd001@medway.org.uk

The Pilgrim School

KS2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs D Field
Office Manager
The Pilgrim School
Warwick Crescent
Borstal
Rochester
Kent ME1 3LF
Telephone - (01634) 841873
Email office@pilgrim.medway.sch.uk

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Greenacre School
Teacher of PE
Full Time and permanent
Salary: MPS/UPS
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 30 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr A J Reese, Headteacher
Greenacre School
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861593
E-mail
office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

Medway Community College

Teacher of English
Salary: MPS/UPS
Required From: 1 September 2008 or earlier
Closing date: 25 April 2008
To apply/more information
Katharine Pringle/Julie Jones
Teacher Recruitment Team
Medway Council
Civic Centre
Strood
Kent ME2 4AU
Telephone - (01634) 331292
Email teaching@medway.gov.uk

Medway Community College

Mathematics Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 25 April 2008
To apply/more information
Katharine Pringle/Julie Jones
Teacher Recruitment Team
Medway Council
Civic Centre
Strood
Kent ME2 4AU
Telephone - (01634) 331292
Email teaching@medway.gov.uk

New Brompton College

Teacher of Drama
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Sue Moss, Personnel Manager
New Brompton College
Marlborough Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5HT
Telephone - (01634) 852341
Email
sue.moss@nbc.medway.sch.uk

New Brompton College

Teacher of Dance
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Sue Moss, Personnel Manager
New Brompton College
Marlborough Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5HT
Telephone - (01634) 852341
Email
sue.moss@nbc.medway.sch.uk

Rainham School for Girls

Teacher of Science/Health and Social Care
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs D Francis
Personnel Officer
Rainham School For Girls
Derwent Way
Rainham
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0BX
Telephone - (01634) 362746
Fax - 01634 388334
Email admin@rsg.org.uk

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School

Teacher of Law
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008

Closing Date: 28 April 2008

To apply/more information

Mr D Kelly, Headteacher
St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Ordinance Street
Chatham
Kent ME4 6DP
Telephone - (01634) 842811
Email headteacher@st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive

Teacher of Science
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Main Road
Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive

Teacher of Maths
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Main Road
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Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Assistant Faculty Leader

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Assistant Faculty Leader of Religious Education
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c (£2,364)
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr D Kelly, Headteacher
St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School
Ordinance Street
Chatham
Kent ME4 6DP
Telephone - (01634) 842811
Email headteacher@st-johnfisher.medway.sch.uk

Assistant Curriculum Leader

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive
Assistant Curriculum leader (Technology)
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2c (£2,364)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Main Road
Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Main Road, Hoo
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Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Head of Department

Chatham South School
Head of ICT
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLRc
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Maureen Chipperfield
Office Manager
Chatham South School
Letchworth Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME4 6NT
Telephone - (01634) 404277
Email Headteacher@chathamssouth.medway.sch.uk

Walderslade Girls School

Head of Business Studies
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2B
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 2 May 2008
To apply/more information
Walderslade Girls School
Bradfields Avenue
Walderslade
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861596
Email Headteacher@waldersladegirls.medway.sch.uk

Curriculum Leader

Rainham School for Girls
Curriculum Leader - Geography
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2b (£4,037)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 2 May 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs D Francis
Personnel Officer
Rainham School For Girls
Derwent Way
Rainham
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0BX
Telephone - (01634) 362746
Fax - 01634 388334
Email admin@rsg.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive

Curriculum leader - Science
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 28 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs K Cruttenden
Headteachers P.A.
The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School
Main Road
Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

Subject Leader

Greenacre School
Subject Leader in English
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 30 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr A J Reese, Headteacher

Greenacre School
(A Specialist Sports College)
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861593
Fax - 01634 869246
Email
office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

The Thomas Aveling School

Subject Leader for Business Studies with a responsibility for Enterprise Education
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR2a (£5778)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Mr Richard Hart
Headteacher
Aethusa Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 2UW
Telephone - (01634) 844809
Fax - 01634 818385
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk

Deputy Headteacher / Curriculum Manager

Walderslade Girls School
Salary: L16 - L20
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 1 May 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs P Conibear, Headteacher
Walderslade Girls School
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861596
Fax - 01634 869246
Email headteacher@waldersladegirls.medway.sch.uk

SEN

Abbey Court Community Special School
SEN Teacher
Salary: MPS + 2 SEN Points
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Linda Taylor
Abbey Court Community Special School
Rede Court Road
Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 3SP
Telephone - (01634) 338224
Fax - 01634 295369
Email
office@abbeycourt.med.sch.uk

Abbey Court Community Special School

SEN Teacher to lead KS4/5 (Further Education)
Salary: MPS + TLR 2 (£5778) + 2 SEN
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 9 May 2008
To apply/more information
Linda Taylor
Abbey Court Community Special School
Rede Court Road
Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 3SP
Telephone - (01634) 338224
Fax - 01634 295369
Email
office@abbeycourt.med.sch.uk

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Fax: 01634 714644 E-mail: info@kentbalusters.co.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of Application for a New premises Licence
Hussein Usam hereby gives notice that an application was made to Medway Council on 8th April 2008 (the application date) for a new premises Licence called "Bismillahs Supermarket" 367a Luton Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 5SL for the following licensable activities:- sale/supply of alcohol for consumption off the said premises 0700 - 0300 Monday - Saturday and 0700 - 0300 Sundays. Full details of the proposals are stated on the full application.

The full application may be inspected at the Licensing Unit, Medway Council, Annex A, First Floor, Civic Centre, Strood, Kent, ME2 4HL, free of charge during office hours Tel: 01634 333111, or www.licensing@medway.gov.uk. Any interested party or responsible authority may make written representations by 7th May 2008.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and a person may be liable to a fine on summary conviction of up to £5,000.
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Competition gives your enterprise a chance to shine

ENTRIES can now be submitted for prestigious awards which recognise the hard work and innovation of Medway's 10,000 small enterprises.

Medway Business Awards 2008 will be sponsored by law firm Furley Page, Lloyds TSB, Medway council, University of Kent, Business Link Kent, Medway Enterprise Gateway, North Kent Enterprise Agency, Reeves & Neylan, University of the Creative Arts, Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce, and E.ON.

Now in its 24th year, the awards offer a prize of £5,000 plus the opportunity for businesses to stand out from the crowd.

Eligible businesses must have traded for more than 12 months on July 31 with an annual turnover of less than £5.6 million. Entries close on July 31 with a gala awards ceremony taking place on November 14.

For further information see www.medwaybusinessawards.co.uk.

Greener cars could save your company a small fortune

NEARLY £3 billion a year could be saved in the UK if businesses switch to greener company cars, a study has revealed.

Research by independent environmental organisation the Energy Saving Trust has found that with Government tax breaks now in force, if UK companies all choose vehicles with 120g/km or fewer carbon dioxide emissions there could be £250m savings for UK employers through reduced National Insurance contributions.

There would also be £645m savings for UK employees through reduced Benefit in Kind (BIK) income tax contributions, £780m saving for UK employers through reduced fuel consumption, a saving of £1.2bn on the fuel bill of company cars driven privately and massive emissions savings.

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Join the 3,500-plus who attended Kent's 20th exhibition.



PERFECT MATCH: Kent Dunham Business Transfer Agency is a 'company marriage broker' designed to introduce interested buyers to businesses which are up for sale

In the business of matchmaking

A NEW agency has been set up in Kent to act as a "company marriage broker" between people wanting to sell businesses and those wanting to buy them.

The Dunham Group, which has offices all around the country, has launched its new Kent Dunham Business Transfer Agency (DBTA) to help would-be entrepreneurs find their perfect business.

Peter Burgess, area director of the Kent DBTA, has lived and worked in the county for nearly 30 years and provided financial services to companies across the region.

He said: "Many people wanting to sell or buy

a business don't know where to start. Unlike traditional brokers, we aim to provide a unique, personalised service.

"We build relationships with prospective buyers and sellers to understand their needs and objectives, and work together to ensure tailored advice and support is provided throughout the process."

The agency has two divisions, one focusing on hotels, public houses, restaurants, nurseries, care homes and shops, and the other specialising in the sale of corporate entities.

As part of the Dunham Group the agency has access to an extensive network and database of buyers and existing businesses for sale, as well as providing clients with support from a group of specialist companies including

Dunham Media and corporate law firm, Dunham Solicitors LLP.

Mr Burgess said: "This is a significant advantage for clients, as the legal costs of selling or buying a business can often be underestimated. Our unique fee structure incorporates the legal costs at a preferential rate, streamlining the entire process."

Dean Dunham, founder of the group, said: "Our industry knowledge is vital to the successful sale of a business and we ensure that clients benefit from our experience and from access to other companies in the group, so that both vendors and buyers get the best result possible."

For details see www.businesssalegroup.co.uk or call 0845 0061408.



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Picture: ALAN BOURNE



SUCCESS: Medway take home another title following victory against Sheppey

Medway claim another trophy

RUGBY

Sheppey 7 Medway 14

MEDWAY added the Robin Everest Memorial Trophy to their Kent Two title, when they beat Sheppey at the Ditch in their final league game of the season on Saturday.

With promotion already in the bag, Medway could have been forgiven for taking their foot off the gas against the Islanders, but they put in a professional display to record their 12th league win of the season.

Medway played into a strong wind in the first half, opting to keep control of the ball and deny Sheppey possession.

The strategy paid off when Glen Wadsworth touched down after a scrum in the Sheppey 22.

The conversion was missed but ten

minutes later Wadsworth made it 8-0 when he kicked a penalty awarded for hands in the ruck.

Coach Taff Gwilliam had to shuffle his pack when first Danny Williams and then Ben Wadsworth were forced off by shoulder and knee injuries respectively, meaning 17-year-old Tom Willoughby was thrown in at centre.

Sheppey dragged themselves back into the game when Brad Box scored a superb individual try that he converted himself, but two further penalties kept them at bay.

A delighted Gwilliam said: "To win back-to-back championships at any standard is quite a feat."

Medway were a whisker away from going the season unbeaten, their only defeat coming on the opening day of the season at Cranbrook. Gwilliam recalled: "It was a very tight game there. We lost 12-0 and they created only two chances, but they took them both, so no regrets. The key was the two wins over Vigo. They play probably the most flowing rugby in our division so to win at their place and then back here was very satisfying."

Medway have a chance to win yet another trophy this season when they face Sheppey in the semi-final of the Kent Vase at Priestfields.

Young skiers win medals on slopes

YOUNGSTERS Max Moss and Emily Evans won medals at the British Land National Ski Championships in Meribel, France.

Moss, 12, took the Boys' Slalom for his age group, taking the title by half a second.

The Rochester-based skier said: "My first run was okay I thought, but my coach told me it was the best he'd seen me ski. My second run was better, I had prepared my skis well and that helped."

Chatham's Emily Evans, 13, also produced a medal-winning display in the second run of her event, the Girls' Slalom. She was out of the top three at the halfway stage, but an improved second attempt gave her bronze.

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Kent aim to build on last year's Twenty20 success

Swans boss praises 'impressive' Gills

SWANSEA City manager Roberto Martinez believes Gillingham boss Mark Stimson will keep his side in League One after an impressive performance against the Swans on Saturday.

Martinez's side achieved promotion to the Championship with their 2-1 victory at Priestfield, but they had to fight hard and rode their luck at times.

Stimson said: "It is nice to hear Martinez believes I can keep the Gills up. I still think we have got a very good chance. What we have got to do is keep that belief."

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GLENN PEARSON AT
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UNLUCKY: Gillingham are still in the relegation zone as Dennis Oli's strike was not enough to warrant any points against promoted Swansea City

Stimson not giving up hope of saving the Gills

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

Gillingham 1 Swansea City 2

went in, but that is why they are going up to the Championship. They have a great bunch of players and I am sure they will do well.

"I felt if we had got that second goal the game could have been different, but we didn't get the rub of the green.

"It reminded me of my first game in charge at home against Doncaster, we got a penalty and if that goes in it's 2-0 and a completely different game.

"We didn't get the second goal and they had their opportunities and punished us."

The Gillingham fans were disappointed with the goals their side conceded, as there appeared to be a foul on goalkeeper Derek Stille for the first goal.

Stimson, who has watched television replays,

conceded the goals were fair and were right to be awarded, but was disappointed the referee did not allow more than four minutes injury time at the end of the game.

He added: "I felt that with all the substitutions and injuries the referee should have given more than four minutes injury time.

"The only way the system is going to get any better with the correct time being allowed at the end of games is if former professionals do it, but they are not going to want to do that because it is not a rewarding job.

"You do not get any pats on the back and everyone likes to have that when you are doing a job well."

With both Millwall and Crewe winning, Gillingham are now three points from safety in the League One drop zone. Stimson knows that with just three games left, his side have got to keep performing, if they are to get out of trouble.

On Saturday they have a tricky trip to Bristol Rovers as they continue their fight against the drop.

Avery mixes it with Rooney and Ronaldo

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

WHEN Chatham Town's Richard Avery isn't working for his father's heating firm he's employed as an extra, rubbing shoulders with Wayne Rooney, Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona's Bojan Krkic.

Avery, who is on-loan at Chatham from Dartford, admits it can be difficult to adjust.

He told Yourmedway: "It's massively surreal. When you are out there playing with the best players in the world you start to think like one, but then you come back and have to go and play at Molesey on a Tuesday night.

"The other lads didn't believe me at first. They are not jealous but they can't believe

"I'm so lucky because it's every footballer's dream."

With lavish promotional campaigns for the big sportswear manufacturers becoming ever more complex, shoots can take days to complete.

Packed fixture lists mean it can be impossible to get the top players for long enough, so extras are used as body doubles.

Last month between takes, Avery could be found ball juggling with Manchester United's Ronaldo.

He said: "All the players want to do is have the ball at their feet, even if it's freezing cold. He [Ronaldo] was being told to sit next to a heater but he didn't want to.

"I was doing keepy-uppies with him and every time he gave it to me I just wanted to catch it and throw it back to him because I was so scared of messing it up."

Earlier this month Avery spent five days filming in Barcelona with Krkic, Andres Iniesta and highly-rated Ajax striker Klaas Jan Huntelaar.

Chatham Town lost 2-1 at Kent rivals Sittingbourne at the weekend. The Chats took an early lead through Steve Hafner, but a Bradley Spice free-kick and Dave Milton strike gave the Brickies all three points.



EXTRA-TIME Chatham's Richard Avery doubles up as an extra, working with stars Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney

Dynamos face mammoth Sheffield task

ICE HOCKEY

Invicta Dynamos 2
Sheffield Scimitars 2

INVICTA Dynamos face an uphill struggle if they want to make it into the final of the ENIHL Cup after drawing the home leg of the semi-final with Sheffield.

The Mos almost took the lead on the second shift when Grant Baxter tipped wide a point shot from Alex Shaw.

Elliot Andrews was denied by the glove of Ben Bowns after a long pass from Peter Korff, while Bowns got his body in the way of an Andy Smith one timer. The period ended in similar fashion to the way it started, this time Anthony Leone burying Scott Morris on the blue line.

If the opening period had been fairly level in chances, the second was all one-way traffic as Sheffield took the game by the scruff of the neck. Leone was sat

in the box when the opening tally was scored, an awful clearance by the Mos gave the puck straight to Haywood and this time he hit the target, firing in off the underside of the bar.

Ian Rowlands was kept busy as Sheffield poured forward, making glove saves to Mark Holland, Chris Turner and Matt Haywood and keeping a pad on the post to deny a wraparound attempt from Shaun Ashton.

It was against the run of play that the Mos equalised in the final minute of the period, a heads up pass from AJ Smith behind the net finding Andy Smith who fired past Bowns.

Leone took a rather needless roughing penalty and for the second time while he sat in the penalty box, Sheffield took full advantage, Richie Oliver finding the puck on his tape after a goal-mouth melee.

Ryan Handisides fired straight at Rowlands after Haywood had dropped the puck onto his tape



TOP FORM: Ian Rowlands was kept busy against Sheffield, pulling off some fine stops

before the Mos drew level once again.

Handisides was assessed a tripping penalty on 50 minutes and as the penalty began to wind

down, Peter Carey found Lennon at the point and his shot flew past Bowns. Inside the final few minutes, both sides had opportunities but couldn't make them pay.

yourmedway

PLAYER FOCUS



GOOD CHARACTER: Gills captain Andrew Crofts believes the squad has what it takes to stay up

Crofts feels defeat against the Welsh

THOUSANDS of Welshman were celebrating at Priestfield on Saturday, but unfortunately for Gillingham their captain Andrew Crofts wasn't one of them.

The Welsh international was left frustrated as Swansea blitzed the Gills with two goals just before the break.

It was a travesty for Gillingham, who dominated the first half and took a fully deserved lead when Dennis Oli broke the deadlock in the 22nd minute.

But the Gills were hit by a sucker punch just before the break. Guillem Bauza equalised with Swansea's first shot on target in the 44th minute. The home side claimed keeper Derek Stillie had been fouled, but the goal was given and with the home side still reeling, the visitors edged in front before the interval, when Bauza stunned the home crowd by firing into the bottom corner.

Gillingham's sense of injustice deepened in the second half when referee Clive Penton denied them a strong penalty shout, after striker Simeon Jackson was felled in the box.

The win secured promotion for the Swans and Crofts paid tribute to Roberto Martinez's side. He told Yourmedway: "Swansea are a great side and have some really good players, but we have always done well against them in the past.

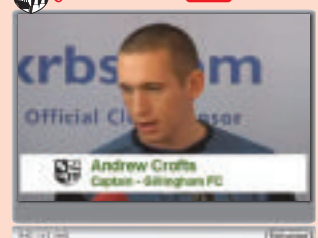
"They are big games which you enjoy more. Obviously we would rather be in a better position than we are but they are games you end up looking forward to because everyone is buzzing."

Other results went against Gillingham, with relegation rivals Crewe and Millwall both winning, but Crofts believes the Gills are still in with a fighting chance of staying up. He said: "I think we have given ourselves a good chance of getting out of it now. A few games ago it wasn't looking so bright but we've shown good character."

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Gills captain Andrew Crofts speaks about the morale around the club

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